



सत्यमेव जयते

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

TWO HUNDRED NINETY SEVENTH REPORT

**Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendation contained in the Two Hundred
Eighty Eighth Report on the Demands for Grants
2017-18 of the Department of Higher Education
(Ministry of Human Resource Development)**

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 5th January, 2018)

(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 5th January, 2018)



Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
January, 2018/Pausa, 1939 (Saka)

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Hindi version of this publication is also available

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

(Constituted w.e.f. 1st September, 2017)

1. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa
3. Shrimati Vandana Chavan
4. Prof. Jogen Chowdhury
5. Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda
6. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
7. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad
8. Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa
9. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudhe
10. Shri Gopal Narayan Singh

LOK SABHA

11. Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat
12. Shri Bijoy Chandra Barman
13. Shri Nihal Chand
14. Shrimati Bhawana Gawali (Patil)
15. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste.
16. Shrimati Geetha Kothapalli
17. Prof. Chintamani Malviya
18. Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra
19. Shri Ramachandran Mullappally
20. Shrimati Neelam Sonker
21. Shri Hari Om Pandey
22. Dr. Bhagirath Prasad
23. Shri N.K Premachandran
24. Shri K.N. Ramachandran
25. Shri M.I. Shanavas
26. Dr. Nepal Singh
27. Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh
28. Shri Satyapal Singh
29. Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati
30. Shri P.R. Sundaram
31. Shrimati P.K Sreemathi Teacher

SECRETARIAT

Shri K P. Singh, *Joint Secretary*

Shri Rajiva Srivastava, *Director*

Shri Vinay Shankar Singh, *Additional Director*

Shri Arun Kumar, *Deputy Secretary*

Shrimati Himanshi Arya, *Under Secretary*

Shri K. Sudhir Kumar, *Research Officer*

Shri Mohit Misra, *Committee Officer*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Two Hundred Ninety Seven Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by Government on the observation/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Eighty Eighth Report on the Demands for Grants 2017-18 of the Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development).

2. Two Hundred Eighty Eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2017 and simultaneously laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 21st March, 2017. Replies of the Government to the Observation/Recommendations/contained in the Report were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 4th January, 2018.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 4th January, 2018.

NEW DELHI;
4 January, 2018

Pausa 15, 1939 (Saka)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA
Chairman,
Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Human Resource Development
Rajya Sabha.

REPORT

The Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations /Recommendations contained in its Two Hundred Eighty Eighth Report on the Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Department Of Higher Education (Ministry Of Human Resource Development). The 288th Report was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 21st March, 2017. The Department of Higher Education (Ministry Of Human Resource Development) has *vide* their communications dated 21st November, 2017 furnished their Action Taken notes to the Committee.

2. The Action Taken Notes received from the Government in respect of the recommendations/observations contained in the 288th Report have been categorized as follows:

- (i) Chapter-I: Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government
Paras - 9.3, 14.5, 15.4 & 15.6

Total – 4

- (ii) Chapter-II: Observations/Recommendations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply Paras - 2.7, 3.4, 3.5, 4.5, 4.8, 5.4, 5.6, 7.3, 8.4, 12.13, 13.5 & 15.3

Total – 12

- (iii) Chapter-III: Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Paras - 4.6, 4.7, 6.5, 10.3, 11.11, 11.12, 11.13, 11.14 & 11.15

Total – 9

- (iv) Chapter-IV: Observations /Recommendations in respect of which reply of the Government is still awaited. Paras – Nil

Total - Nil

CHAPTER-I

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF ACADEMIC NETWORKS (GIAN)

Observations / Recommendations

9.3 *The Committee observes that this scheme by the Department to bring world class teachers to teach courses in Government educational institutions is commendable. The Committee, however, would like to recommend that the Department should provide adequate facilities and research facilities in the premier educational and scientific institutions so that these institutions not just attract global faculty but also international students.*

Action Taken

Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education was launched on 30th November, 2015. The programme seeks to invite distinguished academicians, entrepreneurs, scientists, experts from premier institutions from across the world, to teach in the higher educational institutions in India. The Scheme envisages garnering the best international experience into our systems of education, enabling interaction of students and faculty with the best academic and industry experts from all over the world. Collaboration is going on with different countries to attract the best international talent. All courses are video recorded and some of them are also live webcasted depending on the available infrastructure and consent of the foreign faculty. This enables others to view the content later through the local and national GIAN portal and the National Digital Library. No. of Courses approved till date is 1299. Courses already organized till 21st September, 2017 is 705. So far an amount of ₹ 80 crore has been released during the last two years and current year.

2. All the IITs have been permitted to hire NRIs and OCIs as faculty on permanent basis and the foreigners (other than NRIs and OCIs) on contract for a period not exceeding five years, with necessary clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs. This has been done to bring in international exposure to these premier institutions. The exercise is mutually beneficial as the foreign faculty brings a diverse but relevant research background, which adds to the vibrancy of the Institute in terms of collaboration with in-house faculty in areas of research, supervision of Ph.D students, seminar presentations, teaching in advanced courses and mentoring. Government offers attractive pay and allowances to all faculty members in IITs and also provides necessary support for carrying out research. To attract quality faculty, IITs take steps such as: year-round open advertisements, invitation through search-cum-selection procedures to alumni/scientists/faculty, and advertisements in international journals.

3. Foreign students have been allowed to appear in JEE(Advanced) 2017 examination, which was also conducted at six centres abroad, namely Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Dubai (UAE), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Singapore. The seats allotted to them are supernumerary with of cap of 10% of total number of seats in each course, without reducing the availability of seats for the Indian students.

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN AND UCCHATAR AVISHKAR ABHIYAN

Observations / Recommendations

14.5 *The Committee takes note of the two schemes being implemented by the Department. The Committee*

would like to point out that till date 40 institutes have adopted gram panchayats/villages under this scheme in their vicinity. The Committee recommends that adequate resources should be made available to the institutes to help solve the problems and improve living conditions and livelihoods in these villages. The Committee observes that these schemes should have inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for different professions and upgrade the capabilities responding to the development needs of rural India.

Action Taken

Under Unnat Abhiyan, the Ministry of HRD provides funds for the institutions to carry out field studies of chosen villages assist with their inputs into Gram Panchayat Development Plans and provide knowledge or linkage with any technological requirement while formulating solutions to the pressing problems face by villagers. The actual funds for implementation of the solutions are envisaged to come from the concerned District Administration through convergence of existing resources. Over time the attempt is to orient the syllabi of higher educational institutions so as to make them more relevant to the development needs of rural India.

PROJECT VISHWAJEET

Observations / Recommendations

15.4 *The Committee takes note of the financial outlay for the scheme for improvement of ranking of the seven IITs. The Committee recommends that apart from providing funds the Department should also take steps like improving the infrastructure, increase research in new fields, recruit international faculty and enroll more international student in these institutions. These steps would not only help in making our premier institutes compete with other world class institutes but also improve their world rankings.*

Action Taken

The modalities of the Project Vishwajeet have not yet been finalized and still under consideration in the Ministry. However, recommendations made in the report have been noted.

Observations / Recommendations

15.6 *In view of its observations in the foregoing paras the Committee further adds that quality assurance in higher education has to become top of policy agenda and education has to prepare graduates with new skills, broad knowledge base and a range of competencies to enter a more complex and interdependent world. Quality is a multi-dimensional concept and several mechanisms for quality assurance and management at individual and institutional level are needed. The Committee further points out that system of accountability and accreditation with a robust regulatory mechanism are essential to process of sustaining and improving quality and developing performance indicators and benchmarks for assessing outcomes in higher education. The Committee accordingly, urges upon the Department of Higher Education to take all measures so as to ensure the quality in higher education matching with the global standards.*

Action Taken

Based on the changed higher education scenario, feedback received from the stakeholders and the considered practise of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) to revisit its methodology periodically, it was desirable to fine tune and revise the grading pattern. It was observed that instrument of NAAC does need more objectivity to capture finer distinctions between various grade levels and therefore it

was agreed that to reflect the institution performance level with more distinctively, a 7 point scale with appropriate distribution of CGPA can be a better choice.

NAAC would provide for roping in a third party (professional agencies and reputed research/academic institutions like IITs, IIMs etc.) which could verify the authenticity of data captured in the proposed system of accreditation and offer qualitative inputs through inspection.

Priority would be accorded to data capture and to minimal physical inspections. The proposed accreditation system needs to shift from the present system where the Peer Review Team (PRT) gives the CGPA. The CGPA should be calculated by software based on quantitative inputs captured online and qualitative inputs given by PRTs.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS /RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

Observations / Recommendations

2.7 *The Committee appreciates that the amount in the Budget has been increased by 15.56%. The Committee observes that the funding for technical and management institutions in the budget has seen an increase of 57.76% and 41.1% respectively. The Committee would like point out that the funding for Central Universities has seen an increase of just 2.31%. The Committee observes that this increase for Central Universities is just meagre as compared to their infrastructure, faculty and number of students. The Committee recommends that Central Universities have a larger number of students enrolled in them as compared to the technical and management institutes; therefore the Department should increase the funding for the Central Universities appropriately.*

Action Taken

Requirement of funds in respect of Central Universities was properly projected. Allocation of funds to various Departments comes under the purview of Ministry of Finance/ Parliament. However, funds are allocated on the overall availability of resources and the competitive demand under various schemes.

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO

Observations / Recommendations

3.4 *The Committee takes note of the work done by the Department in the increase of Gross Enrolment Ratio. The Committee emphasizes the need for promotion of skill improvement as it has always been neglected. The Committee recommends that the Department should make efforts not only to increase the content and length of the skill development courses, but also strengthen the industrial linkage.*

Action Taken

UGC has launched guidelines for establishing University-Industry Inter-Linkage Centres in Universities. The objectives of the scheme are given below:

- (a) Identify the expertise available in the university which can be of use for the industries in the locality/region by way of consultancy services, evaluation of R & D activities of the industries, etc.;
- (b) Take the help of the expertise of the industries to improve/redesign the curriculum periodically in tune with the requirements of the industries;
- (c) Help create skilled manpower for industry requirements at various levels;
- (d) Conduct Management Development Programmes (MDPs), Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), etc.;
- (e) Initiate schemes for student/teacher training, joint research;

- (f) Undertake R & D in the areas related to skill education and development, entrepreneurship, employability, labour market trends, etc. at the postgraduate and research levels;
- (g) Maintain 'Labour Market Information' for the region in coordination with government agencies and industry associations;
- (h) Help set up Science & Technology Entrepreneurs' Parks (STEPs), Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), etc.;
- (i) Work for coordination between the University and industry/industries in the neighbourhood to make the Centre a Centre of Excellence for skill development in specified areas;

Conduct all other activities as are incidental or conducive to the functioning of the Centre

Comments of the Committee

The Committee takes note of the Government's initiative. However, it may be apprised of impact of the scheme.

Observations / Recommendations

3.5 The Committee observes that Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC/ST students at 19.9 and 14.2 respectively, is below the national average of 24.5. This needs to be improved by taking all the necessary steps by the Department. The Committee desires that the Department should ensure the benefit of scholarships and reservation being provided to SC/ST/OBC and minority students reach them and thereby result into enhanced GER in these categories. The Committee, however, would like to reiterate that the Department should not only take steps to bridge the gap between the general category students and the SC/ST/OBC and minorities students but also take initiatives so that students from these sections do not leave their education in between.

Action Taken

The following steps have been taken with a view to ensure implementation of welfare measures for SC/ST/OBC and minorities students:

The UGC is continuously monitoring the progress of implementation of Reservation Policy for SCs, STs and OBCs and minorities in admission to courses at all levels in Universities/Institutions.

The UGC has been contributing towards social equity and social economic mobility of the under privileged sections of the society through special coaching schemes in universities and Colleges. In the initial period of XII Plan, Grant was released to colleges through Regional Offices of the UGC. After 2014-15, the Coaching Schemes for universities and colleges were shifted to an Independent section of UGC i.e. SC/ST/OBC Section.

The UGC had introduced Remedial Coaching for the benefit of SCs, STs, OBCs (non-creamy layer) and Minority students with a view to improve and strengthen their knowledge, academic skills and linguistic proficiency in various subjects.

The Commission also introduced Coaching for NET/SET examination with the objective to prepare SC/ST/OBC & Minority students for such examination.

In order to gain useful employment in Group A, B and C positions in Central and State Government

services or equivalent positions in the private sector, the UGC has introduced a coaching scheme for facilitating entry into these services.

During XIIth Plan period, 137 State Universities are assisted under Coaching Scheme for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Minorities. Further, UGC constitutes Expert Committees to study the impact of Coaching Schemes related to SC,ST and OBC (non-creamy layer) and Minorities from time to time.

Establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells in CUs: The Equal Opportunity Cell run specific scheme of coaching for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC (non-creamy layer), Minorities in order to enhance their employability and success.

Remedial coaching for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) & Minority students: Remedial Coaching is organized at Undergraduate and / or Postgraduate level with objectives to:

- (a) improve the academic skills and linguistic proficiency of the students in various subjects.
- (b) raise their level of comprehension of basic subjects to provide a stronger foundations for further academic work.
- (c) strengthen their knowledge, skills and attitudes in such subjects, where quantitative and qualitative techniques and laboratory activities are involved, so that necessary guidance and training provided under the programme may enable the students to come up to the level necessary for pursuing higher studies efficiently and to reduce their failure and dropout rate.
- (d) provide career guidance and psychological counselling for capacity building to those who are in need of such counselling.

Coaching for NET/SET for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) & Minority students-

The main objective of the scheme is to prepare Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes OBC (non-creamy layer) and Minority communities candidates for appearing in National Eligibility Test (NET) or State Eligibility Test (SET) so that sufficient number of candidates becomes available for selection as teachers in the university system.

Residential Coaching Academy (RCA) for Minorities and SC/ST/ Women in Universities

The main objective behind establishment of Residential Coaching Academy is to run schemes like 'Coaching for students at UG/PG level', 'Coaching for students to prepare for NET', 'Coaching for students for entry in services covered under Central and State Governments'. The aim of these schemes is to prepare students for NET and all India & State Services examinations and UG/PG level examinations.

Centres in Universities for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy

Social exclusion not only generates tension, violence and disruption, but also perpetuates inequality and deprivation in society. In India, certain communities such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and religious minorities experience systemic exclusion in the matter of getting advantages of development. Social exclusion is a complex and multidimensional concept having social, cultural, political and economic ramifications. The consequences of macroeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment and involuntary migration exclude the victims from economic, cultural, and political activities. The primary space where 'exclusion' can be studied, understood, and first transcended, are our universities, which can and must act

as a beacon for society. The UGC therefore supports research on the issue of social exclusion, which has theoretical as well as policy importance. The centre approved by UGC in universities undertake following activities.

Functions

- Teaching Courses at the M.A and M.Phil levels, leading eventuality to full-fledged M.A and even M.Phil programmes in Social Exclusion Studies.
- Undertaking M.Phil and Ph. D. supervision.
- Undertaking empirical studies with theoretical perspective and build time series data bank for comparative studies and policy/programmes evaluation.
- Carrying out detailed rigorous analyses based on the socio-economic data generated by government agencies.
- Organizing conferences, seminars and symposia on the theme of Social Exclusion.
- Publishing regularly the research findings of the faculty and students.
- Organizing public lectures on the subject by eminent scholars.
- Reaching out to scholars, especially young scholars, in other universities and colleges through an active programme of inviting Visiting Faculty.
- Establishing links with Civil Society Organizations engaged in combating Social Exclusion.

Conducting short-term Orientation courses for political leaders, Parliamentarians, government officials, trade unionists and media personalities.

RASHTRIYA UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA)

Observations / Recommendations

4.5 *The Committee is astonished to note that only 46% of the total Central share has been released and 24.7 % of the released fund has been utilized so far. When enquired the Department could not furnish the desired details of fund earmarked for RUSA and also failed to give explanation why so less fund has been released and further why only 11% of the total central share was utilized. The Committee therefore, calls for the details as well as the reasons for the above under utilization. Further the Committee would like to know how the State share of ₹ 200 crore was utilized. The Committee may be apprised accordingly by the Department in its Action Taken Replies.*

Action Taken

As on 30th September, 2017, ₹ 2319.53 crores has been approved as infrastructure grants to Universities, out of which the Central share is ₹ 1413.015 crore. The Central share released till mentioned date is ₹ 812.95 crores out of which utilization for an amount of ₹ 279.454 crores has been received.

In the initial period after the launch of RUSA, the structures and channels required for proper implementation of the scheme were in the developing stage. Hence, it seemed prudent to release a smaller fraction of the central share as 1st installment to the states list it lead to parking of funds due to lack of

structure. The states required some time to set up their state Project Directorates, Technical Support Groups, identifying vendors etc. Thus the initial pace of fund release and utilization was slow. However, the pace has picked up. In 2015-16 and 2016-17 more than 90% of Budget allotted to the Ministry for RUSA were released as Central share. An additional amount of ₹ 1300 crores was sought as supplementary grants in Financial Year 2016-17 for RUSA, however, it was not granted. The MHRD makes judicious use of the budget allotted for RUSA.

Observations / Recommendations

4.8 Further, the Committee recommends that the higher amount of financial support may specially be provided to the institutions which are in rural regions, remote areas and hilly terrain. The Committee, also recommends that Department should focus on the up-gradation of autonomous colleges which have the potential for excellence. The Department should in collaboration with State Governments develop Cluster college/Universities and introduce integrated UG/PG programmes for improving the skills of the student.

Action Taken

Among the components of the scheme, RUSA provides support for upgradation of autonomous colleges into Universities and also for clustering of colleges into Universities. Till date 8 autonomous colleges have been approved for upgradation into Universities and approval for 8 Universities have been given by clustering of colleges.

The scheme gives importance to unserved and under-served areas since one of the pillars of the scheme is increasing access of higher education. With this view, RUSA aims to cater educationally Backward Districts and has also covered various LWE districts too.

IITs, IIMs AND NITs

Observations / Recommendations

5.4 The Committee is happy to note that new IITs and IIMs have been opened in the last few years to cater to the increasing demand for quality higher technical educational institutions. The Committee, however, would like to point out that while creating new IITs and IIMs, the Department should also ensure provision of adequate funds for the development of infrastructure in these higher educational institutions.

Observations / Recommendations

5.6 The Committee desires that the Department should ensure that these institutions are set up expeditiously. A time line needs to be drawn and all efforts need to be made in co-ordination with all stakeholders including the State Government to facilitate the setting up these institutions. The Committee also desire that since all these institutions will be our premier institutions of national importance and so all required resources, financial or otherwise should be adequately given.

Action Taken (5.4 & 5.6)

Pursuant to Budget Announcements 2014-15 & 2015-16, 6 new IITs one each at Jammu (J&K), Tirupati (A.P), Palakkad (Kerela), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Goa (Goa), and Dharwad (Karnataka) have been established. Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 2-12-2015 had *inter-alia* approved the provision of funds of ₹ 1412 cr. @ ₹ 235.30 cr. per IIT, for running of the 6 new IITs in their temporary campuses. Subsequently, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 17-7-2017 under the chairmanship of

Secretary(Expenditure) appraised the proposal for establishment of permanent campus of 6 new IITs with a total cost of ₹ 7002.42 crore under Phase-A for a period of 3 years beginning from 2017-18 to 2019-20. Accordingly Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 24.10.2017 has approved the proposal.

During the year 2015-16, six new IIMs have been established at Amritsar (Punjab), Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Sambalpur (Odisha), Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The academic sessions of these IIMs has commenced from academic year 2015-16 from their temporary campuses. Another IIM has been established at Jammu which started its academic session from academic year 2016-17 from its temporary campus. The release of funds for these IIMs during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is as under:

Sl.No.	IIMs	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (provisional)	Total
1	Visakhapatnam	1300.00	1796.92	1200.00	4296.92
2	Nagpur	1400.00	500.00	1400.00	3300.00
3	Amritsar	1285.00	962.00	900.00	3147.00
4	Bodh Gaya	1000.00	750.00	900.00	2650.00
5	Sambalpur	1000.00	988.00	900.00	2888.00
6	Sirmaur	1000.00	1364.00	700.00	3064.00
7	J & K	0.00	2216.50	900.00	3116.50

The department ensures that adequate funds are provided to these institutes for the development of infrastructure.

SWAYAM & NMEICT

Observations / Recommendations

7.3 *The Committee recognizes the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The Committee recommends that new technologies such as online teaching, virtual class rooms etc. must be used for enhanced learning experience for the students. The faculty must be encouraged to leverage ICT for better learning outcomes and also deployed for assessment of student's performance. The information and communication technology needs to be used as a tool across all institution and necessary infrastructure must be made available to institutions.*

Action Taken

Keeping in view the recommendations of the committee, the MHRD, under NMEICT programme has recently made the following progress in the use of ICT in Education.

Preamble: Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development is administering the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) Scheme to leverage the potential of ICT, in providing high quality personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet/ intranet for all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in anytime any where mode.

The Mission has two major components *viz.* (a) content generation and (b) Dissemination that includes providing connectivity along with provision for access devices for institutions and learners. It plans to focus on appropriate pedagogy for e-learning, providing facility of performing experiments through virtual laboratories, on-line testing and certification, on-line availability of teachers to guide and mentor learners, Direct to Home (DTH) platforms, training and empowerment of teachers to effectively use the new method of teaching learning etc.

Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM):

The MHRD has developed ‘SWAYAM’, integrated platform for online courses delivery through ICT. It is intended to develop world class content, covering subjects from senior schooling to Post Graduation and skill sector courses to ensure that the every student in our country has access to the best quality higher education & to host it on <https://swayam.gov.in> . About 2000 courses and 80,000 hours of learning material are expected to be developed within three years, on SWAYAM, to support 3 Crore users with a 10 lakh concurrent connections, in few years.

The MHRD has got MOOCs Platform developed and the Beta Version has already been launched. As present about 345 On-line courses are listed on SWAYAM and hundreds of Online Courses have already been launched where-in thousands of students have participated. This way it is expected to support 3 Crore users with a 10 lakh concurrent connections, in few years. UGC and AICTE have issued ‘Credit Framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM, Regulation 2016’; allowing up to 20% Online courses taken through SWAYAM, to be counted for credit.

Integrated e-content Portal:

MHRD has assigned to INFLIBNET, which has developed a web-based portal called “e-Acharya: Integrated e-Content Portal” (<http://eacharya.inflibnet.ac.in>) a reposting content of all e-content projects, developed / funded under the National Mission of Education through ICT. So far about 19,656 e-text, 29824 e-tutorial, 5449 self assessment, 9217 web resources have been uploaded on the platform that includes 36432 courses for under graduates and 12813 courses for post graduation videos, 5862 e-text, 2,225 quizzes and 4,509 learn more component of e-content have been uploaded on this portal.

Campus Connectivity:

Establishment of 1 GBPS Connectivity to universities and 20 numbers of 512 Kbps (broadband) connectivity to colleges has been provisioned under NMEICT. A total of 438 Universities have so far been connected, through 1 GB; also 22026 Colleges have been connected with 10 Mbps bandwidth. LAN with 400 nodes has been established at 50 Universities. For Campus Connect, each of the university & College are being paid 90% Central share for NER States and the rest of the States & UTS paid 75% and the remaining is to paid by respective States & UTs.

National Digital Library (NDL):

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is establishing the National Digital Library (NDL) and IIT Kharagpur has been entrusted to host, coordinate. The objective of the project is to integrate all the existing digitized and digital contents across educational and cultural institutions/bodies to provide a single-window access to different groups of users ranging across the entire population.

The NDL portal has gone live. There are 64,23,000 resources available through the portal. More than

3 lakhs users are registered on the portal. 14 workshops and trainings have been conducted for the contributing institutes. A Mobile App has also been developed.

E-Kalpa / D'Source:

MHRD/NMEICT has initiated a project named “**e-Kalpa**” creating Digital-Learning Environment for Design, in India, with the following project objectives:

1. Digital online content for learning Design with e-Learning programmes on Design
2. Digital Design Resource Database including the craft sector
3. Social networking for Higher Learning with collaborative Learning Space for Design
4. Design inputs for products of National Mission in Education through ICT

E-kalpa is a design-learning environment, URL link www.dsource.in , available as downloadable mobile app also. The text can be read in a number of international & Indian languages. The e-Content is provided in six sections that consist of 95 courses, 465 resources, 206 case studies, 16 showcases, 455 galleries and 298 videos.

‘e-Shodh Sindhu’ of INFLIBNET Centre:

The main objective of the e-Shodh Sindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text, bibliographic and factual databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The e-Shodh Sindhu, serves more than 220 universities and 4,400 colleges, Centrally-funded Technical Institutions including IITs, IISc, NITs, IIMs, IISERs, IIITs, etc., and has by 31st December 2016 subscribed to more than 31,35,000 e-books, 15,000 e-journals, 40 Resources, 16 Databases. The number of publications (e-recourses) under e-Shodh Sindhu, has crossed 11,254. The e-Shodh Sindhu further supports to more than 4000 Colleges, 230 Universities, 87 Centrally Funded Institutions and 72 Technical Institutions.

Virtual Labs:

The MHRD has launched the programme of “Virtual Labs” wherein web enabled experiments have been designed for remote operation and viewing so as to enthuse the curiosity and innovation into students. Virtual Lab does not require any additional infrastructural setup for conducting experiments at user premises. One computer terminal with broadband Internet connectivity is all that is needed to perform the experiments remotely. Over 125 virtual labs in 9 Engineering & Science disciplines, comprising about 1500 experiments are operational and currently being accessed by more than 6 lakh students.

Launch of 32 Educational DTH Channels:

The SWAYAM Prabha (SP) is running 32 Educational DTH channels and for this activity the ‘Department of Space’ has allotted 2 transponders in GSAT 15 satellite. The uplinking facility for SP has been set up at BISAG Gandhinagar and the transmission of the channels is currently on. A portal, swayamprabha.gov.in, is also operational. This portal contains schedule of all the channels.

The Videos that get generated from Online Courses on SWAYAM platform shall also be used for transmission in SWAYAM Prabha (SP) DTH channels. Channel coordinator of SP shall decide the scheduling

of the videos on SWAYAM Prabha. Attempt shall be made to synchronise DTH channel transmission with the dates of offering Online Courses of the SWAYAM.

Since every SP channel would initially have 4 hours of fresh contents every day, besides videos content of SWAYAM, video programmes from other sources including live transmissions is also planned in SP.

IMPACTING RESEARCH INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (IMPRINT)

Observations / Recommendations

8.4 *The Committee appreciates the Department for taking the initiative for enhancing the quality of research and innovation in the country. However, the Committee would like to recommend that the Department should follow some parameters like outcome based research funding; liberal research grants for both social sciences and basic sciences; setting up incubation centers with enough seed money to do innovative research, collaborate with R&D in industry, setting up of research parks, inter-disciplinary research, establish centers in frontier areas of research and viable Public Private Partnership in research; and innovation.*

Action Taken

Two schemes namely Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) and Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) have been launched for improving the quality of research in the country. Brief note on these Schemes is as under:

- (a) **IMPRINT:-** IMPRINT focuses on research in higher educational institutions, with an allocation ₹ 487.00 crore for a period of three years beginning 2016-17. The cost of the project is met to the extent of 50% by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the remaining 50% by the participating Ministries/Departments. IIT-Kanpur is the Mentor Institute of the Scheme. Out of 258 projects approved, 135 projects have been accepted for funding by participating Ministry/Deptt. etc. A provision of ₹ 85.00 crore has been made for the Scheme during current financial year. During the year 2016-17, an amount of ₹ 50.00 crore has been released to the NC of IMPRINT for implementation of the projects.
- (b) **UAY:-** UAY promotes industry sponsored, outcome-oriented research projects with an outlay of ₹ 475.00 crore for a period of two years beginning 2016-17. The project cost is met to the extent of 50% by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and 25% each by the Industry and the participating Ministries/Departments. IIT-Madras is the Mentor Institute of the Scheme. Out of 180 projects; 89 projects have been accepted for funding. During the year 2016-17, an amount of ₹ 75.00 crore has been released to the NC of UAY for implementation of the projects.

Apart from the two Schemes mentioned at pre-page, the old Scheme titled, 'National Initiative for Technology Transfer including Setting up of Research Parks and Establishment of Council for Industry and Higher Education Collaboration' with an outlay of Rs.1000 Crore has been rechristened as 'Startup India Initiative in Higher Educational Institutions' with focus on setting up of 13 Research Parks and 60 Startup Centres in the higher educational institutions. Two Research Parks at IIT Kharagpur and IIT Bombay are presently under construction and funds amounting to ₹ 72.00 crore and ₹ 7.70 crore respectively have been released to the two Institutes as on date. Under the Startup Initiatives, funds amounting to ₹ 37.50 lakh have been released towards setting up of Startup Centres and Technology Business Incubators as on date.

A Revised EFC Note is being prepared based on comments received from the concerned Ministries / Departments.

PRAGATI SCHOLARSHIP

Observations / Recommendations

12.13 *The Committee gathers from above that from the scholarships run by AICTE/UGC etc., more than one lakh research students / scholars are benefitted. The Committee observes that the Department has to ensure that all the schemes of scholarships are implemented in its true spirit and it should reach to the beneficiaries strictly according to the rules, guidelines and other eligibility criteria provided there for. At the same time, it is also obligatory on the part of the Government to review these schemes time to time considering its relevance and also that the beneficiary students / research scholars get the financial assistance or other support adequately. The Committee apprehends that there can be institutions where students give up their research without completing it. The Department has also informed that the students enrolled for M.Tech. in the IITs desert their course mid- way for getting opportunity elsewhere. The Department should take all measures to avoid such a situation.*

Action Taken

The University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various fellowship schemes on behalf of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Minority Affairs and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. UGC has intimated that it has brought all fellowship schemes under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode with a view to ensure effective administration and smooth disbursement of fellowships to the students. Under the DBT disbursement process, the fellowship awardees are required to upload continuation certificates, HRA certificates on quarterly basis in designated bank branches. Payments are made into the Student Beneficiary Accounts through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

As informed by the UGC, it has taken following initiatives in administration and disbursement of fellowships:

1. A dedicated web portal (<https://scholarship.canarabank.in/AdminLogin.aspx>) has been created for migration of legacy cases on DBT platform.
2. A fellowship tracking portal has been developed <https://scholarship.canarabank.in/scholar/Login.aspx> where the students can check the status of payment, date of upload of documents etc.
3. A dedicated email-id ugcfellowships.ugc@gmail.com is created to facilitate the redressal of student grievances especially relating to disbursal of fellowship/ scholarships.
4. A dedicated telephone number has been provided to attend to calls from students relating to grievances/complaints/ problems on disbursal of grants under various fellowship/ scholarship schemes.

In addition to inputs given in above point, a new Scheme called '**Prime Minister Research Fellow (PMRD) and promotion of Research and Innovation**' to attract good quality students for research and measures for promoting of research has been formulated and under stakeholder consultation. The Scheme has (2) components:

- (A) Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRD): The fellowship programme has been formulated to improve the quality of the research, and to encourage bright students completing their B.Tech in IITs/NITs/IITs or graduation in IISc and IISERs to register for direct Ph.D programme in IITs & IISc. Under the Scheme, the fellowship will be offered at the rate of ₹ 70,000/- per month for the year of first 2 year, ₹ 75,000/- p.m. for 3rd year and ₹ 80,000/- p.m. for 4th & 5th year. A maximum of 1000 students of each of the (3) batches joining in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 would be awarded this fellowship. The proposal has been appraised by EFC and Cabinet approval is being sought.
- (B) M.tech Teaching Assistantship (PMTA): Under this scheme, it is proposed to offer 2,000 Teaching Assistantships per year in the M.Tech. programme in the IITs/IISc at the rate of ₹ 25,000/- per month for a period of 2 years. The proposal has been appraised by EFC and approval of the Competent Authority is being sought.

MHRD vide letter dated 18.2.2015 revised the rates of Ph.D. Scholarship and M.Tech Scholarship in AICTE funded and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions. IITs are paying these scholarships to their students.

AICTE

All the Scholarships of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are monitored by checking the student attendance and transferred through Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) mode. Hence there is very little scope of misuse. Moreover, if the students terminate their studies in-between, they are expected to return the scholarship received.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY (HEFA)

Observations / Recommendations

13.5 The Committee takes note of the proposed scheme which is expected to take off by the end of May. The Committee feels, since the scheme was announced last year, the Department and other agencies should have taken adequate efforts, so as to avoid delay in launching of this scheme. The Committee now emphasize upon the Department of Higher Education to ensure that no further delay takes place and the scheme takes off as proposed now. The Committee realises that the scheme is meant for the Centrally Funded Universities and other premier institutions. The Department may consider the demand raised by the State universities and private universities / institutions for coverage under this scheme.

Action Taken

The Cabinet has considered and approved the proposal of establishment of HEFA in its meeting dated 12th September, 2016. In order to give a big push for building up robust higher educational institutions, the Cabinet has approved creation of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with Government equity of ₹ 1000 Cr. The creation of HEFA will enable major investments for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions. The HEFA would be formed as SPV within a PSU Bank/ Government-owned NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to ₹ 20,000 Cr for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IIT/IIMs/NITs and some other infrastructure.

The HEFA would finance the academic and research infrastructure projects through a 10-years loan.

The principal portion of the loan will be repaid through the ‘internal accruals’ of the institutions. The Government would service the interest portion through the regular Plan assistance.

All the Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions would be eligible for joining as member the HEFA. For joining as members, the Institution should agree to escrow a specific amount from the internal accruals to HEFA for a period of 10 years. This secured future flows would be securitised by HEFA for mobilizing the funds from the market. Each member institution would be eligible for a credit limit as decided by HEFA based on the amount agreed to be escrowed from the internal accruals.

The HEFA would be jointly promoted by identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The Government equity would be ₹ 1,000 crore. The HEFA would also mobilise CSR funds from PSUs/Corporates, which would in turn be released for promoting research and innovation in these institutions on grant basis.

The Government has identified Canara Bank as the partner in HEFA after a due process. An MoU and A Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between MHRD and Canara Bank were signed on 9th February, 2017 and 16th March, 2017 respectively. HEFA would be registered as an NBFC with RBI.

Progress:

- The registration of the name HEFA is done with Ministry of Corporate affairs.
- Logo and tagline is since finalised.
- HEFA is since registered as a non-profit company (registered under Section 8 of Companies Act 2013) with MHRD, GoI and Canara Bank as the promoters.
- HEFA has been incorporated under the companies Act, 2013 on 31.05.2017.
- TAN and PAN have been allotted to HEFA.
- The premises for the Corporate office is at VI Floor, Naveen Complex, MG Road, Bengaluru and expected to be completed soon.

Mobilisation of share capital:

- Budget of ₹ 250 crore has been provisioned as against the total allotment of ₹ 1,000 crore.
- Minimum capital contribution for NBFC registration with RBI is ₹ 300 Cr. to which ₹ 250 Cr. was contributed by MHRD, GOI and balance ₹ 50 Cr. was contributed by Canara Bank to enable the Company to apply for the NBFC license.

Timelines:

- Application for NBFC to RBI has been filed and under process.
- HEFA is now operational.

NATIONAL TESTING SERVICE

Observations / Recommendations

15.3 The Committee appreciates the steps taken by the Department to create new specialized organization for conducting entrance examinations and fellowships for admission into higher educational institutions.

The Committee believes that this testing agency would be able to meet its expenditure and conduct examinations in a free and fair manner. The Committee also hopes that this agency would make the examination reliable.

Action Taken

In pursuance to the Budget Announcement 2017-18, the Ministry is in process of establishing a National Testing Agency (NTA) as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct all entrance examinations for higher education institutions. Committee of Establishment Expenditure (CEE) has already been appraised the scheme and approval of the Cabinet is being sought.

The total financial implication on setting up of NTA is estimated to be ₹ 25.00 Crore for its initial operationalization in 1st year. NTA is expected to be financially self sustainable from 2nd year onwards.

CHAPTER-III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Observations / Recommendations

4.6 The Committee observes that out of ₹ 171.023 crores only ₹ 41 crores have been utilized till date and the rest of the money remains un-utilized. Ideally, the entire money should have been utilized by the State Government. The Committee points out that such under-utilization itself casts aspersions on the functioning of this scheme. The Committee has reasons to believe that both Centre and State Governments have not handled the scheme efficiently and also it seems that there is hardly any coordination between the two Governments. The Committee wants that Central & the State Governments should ensure success of this scheme by taking all the necessary measures in consultation with each other.

4.7 The Committee notes that there appears to be the complete absence of monitoring mechanism so far as implementation of the scheme is concerned. The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the Department should have a robust monitoring mechanism for the effective utilization of these funds. The Committee, further, recommends that there should be incentives and rewards for the State Governments who have used the funds optimally.

Action Taken (4.6 & 4.7)

The Bureau of Higher Education, in its role as the National Project Directorate (NPD) for RUSA, regularly co-ordinates with the State Governments in the course of the implementation of the scheme. Frequent review meetings are held with the states to evaluate their performance, address implementation issues etc.

- Proper monitoring of the scheme is one of the priorities for MHRD. With this in mind, various monitoring mechanisms have been put in place under RUSA.
 - (a) Bhuvan-RUSA is a satellite based geo-locating mobile app on which institution upload the physical progress of the work done and upload photos for monitoring purposes.
 - (b) PFMS: All beneficiary institutions and states have made efforts for releasing funds through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). This helps in keeping track of fund flow under the scheme.
 - (c) RUSA fund tracker:- RUSA fund tracker is a mobile app which helps to keep physical financial back of a project from its approval stage.

Workshops are held to help states and all institutions understand the operation of these mechanism NPD lays emphasis on the strict adherence to the norms of the scheme and monitoring methods. These might cause some delays in fund releases in the short term but leads to improvement in quality and absorption capacity of the state in the long term thus leading to qualitative implementation of the scheme.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee takes note of the reply given by the Department of Higher Education. It appears both the coordination between the Centre & State Governments and the monitoring mechanism as set up by the MHRD are not yielding desired result. Had that been so, more than

75% funds, would have not remained utilized. This is a serious issue and needs to be addressed without delay. The Committee would like to have a progress report in this regard so as to ensure the full and proper utilization of funds earmarked for the purpose.

PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA NATIONAL MISSION ON TEACHERS & TEACHING (PMMMNTT)

Observations / Recommendations

6.5 The Committee notes that this scheme has been formed with a vision of making teaching jobs attractive and restoring it to a level of a dignified profession. The Committee is constrained to note that the Scheme since its inception i.e., from 2014 has not made any progress. The information submitted by the Ministry gives a picture that so far only ₹ 1.25 crore have been spent and 41 proposals has been received from universities/institutes from all over the country and out of 88 centres only 59 have been set-up till date. The Committee would like to recommend that the mission should look at teacher's education and training in holistic manner and strengthen the institutional mechanism at all levels right from school to colleges. The Committee also impresses upon the Department of Higher Education to expedite the pace of the scheme.

Action Taken

A total of 48 proposals from various Universities/Institutes from all over the country have been approved till now for setting up institutional arrangements under various components of the Scheme and the remaining set ups totaling to 82; will be made in the coming years till 2019-20. Regarding the fund release, ₹ 1.25 crore were released in the year 2014-15 with the launch of the Scheme on 25th December, 2014, ₹ 59.95 crore in the year 2015-16 and ₹ 70.04 crore in the year 2016-17 and ₹ 22.14 crore in the current F.Y. 2017-18 till now; bringing the total release under the Scheme to ₹ 153.38 crores which indicates that the Scheme is picking up pace.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee observes that this scheme aims to train teachers and provide them education and training in a holistic manner besides addressing related issues of teacher preparation, professional development etc, comprehensively. The Committee notes with concern that the Department has not given year-wise physical and financial targets of the scheme to the Committee. In the absence of such details it is difficult to assess the gains of the scheme or ascertain its pace. The Committee can only conclude that the attitude of the Department towards implementation of the Scheme is lackadaisical lethargic. The Committee recommends that this scheme should be pushed forward with mission mode manner.

Observations / Recommendations

10.3 The Committee endorses the existing/ongoing schemes of AICTE towards faculty development. The Committee further wishes that in addition to these schemes, the AICTE should also explore the possibilities of providing enhanced research fellowships and also ensure strong industry faculty association. The Committee further suggests strengthening and empowering of affiliated colleges by giving autonomy so as to enable them to design specialized courses considering the need of the industry. The Committee strongly feels in order to gain the credibility, it is essential to ensure transparency in these institutions both in the government and private as regards its governance and financial management.

Action Taken

The committee's suggestion regarding enhancing number of research fellowship and fellowship amount has been noted and to promote academia-industry connect, AICTE-CII Industry-Institute survey is carried out every year and awards are given to technical institutions in different categories. In the year 2016, 890 institutes responded to AICTE-CII survey and five institutes won the awards.

However, review of existing scheme would be carried out to enhance its reach and to make it more effective.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would appreciate if it is apprised of the steps taken by the Department to enhance the number of Research fellowships. It may also be informed if any proposal to enhance the fellowship amount is being considered presently. The Committee would like to be informed about the steps taken regarding academia-industry connect.

FACULTY POSITIONS

Observations / Recommendations

11.11 The Committee expresses its concern over the shortage of faculty positions in all the institutions including the private ones. It points out that there can be only two possibilities, either our young talented students are not attracted towards the teaching profession or the recruitment process is a prolonged one and involves too many procedural formalities. In either case, the Department being the nodal authority for the entire country so far as higher education sector is concerned has to take proactive role so as to expedite the filling up a existing vacancies.

11.12 The Committee has been voicing its concern from time to time on the acute shortage of faculty in higher educational institutions across the country. The Committee is anguished to find out that all kinds of institutions right from well established Central Universities to those set up recently, State universities as well as private universities, premier institutions like IITs, NITs and IIMs, this problem has emerged as the biggest handicap for the development and growth of Higher Education *vis-a-vis* maintaining the quality of education. Situation continues to be grim with no improvement being foreseen in the near future. The Committee points out that the availability of adequate and qualified faculty is a pre-requisite for quality education. So far, the efforts of the Department, the regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTC etc. and the universities and other institutions have not been adequate enough to reach a satisfaction level. The Committee therefore impress upon all the stakeholders to expedite and ensure that shortages are eliminated or minimized.

11.13 The Committee, however, recognizes the steps taken by Department like increase in the retirement age up to 65 years and improvement of salary structures.

Action Taken (11.11, 11.12 & 11.13)

The Universities are autonomous bodies created either under the Central Act or State Acts and the onus of filling up the vacant posts lies with them. However, to make the teaching profession more attractive and to draw in good talent at the entry level, the UGC Regulations, 2010 has prescribed norms for improvement in service conditions for the new entrant, in terms of better working and leave conditions, career advancement prospects, retirement benefits etc.

UNIVERSITIES

The total number of sanctioned teaching posts in various Central Universities is 16600 (2376 Professor, 4708 Associate Professor, 9521 Assistant Professor). Out of the total sanctioned teaching posts of 16600, 5928 teaching posts are lying vacant (1277 Professor, 2173 Associate Professor, 2478 Assistant Professor).

While approving the Budget Estimate (Non-Plan) and Revised Budget Estimate (Non-Plan), from the year 2010-11 onwards twice in a year, all the Central Universities have been requested by the UGC to fill up the teaching positions at the earliest.

Further, in order to meet the situation arising out of shortage of teachers in universities and other teaching institutions and the consequent vacant positions therein, the age of superannuation for teachers in Central Educational Institution has already been enhanced to sixty five years; *vide* Department of Higher Education letter No. F.1-19/2006-U.II dated 23.3.2007.

Besides, subject to availability of vacant positions and fitness, teachers can also be re-employed on contract appointment beyond the age of sixty five years upto the age of seventy years. Re-employment beyond the age of superannuation shall, however, be done selectively, for a limited period of 3 years in the first instance and then for another further period of 2 years purely on the basis of merit, experience, area of specialization and peer group review and only against available vacant positions.

UGC requested all Vice Chancellors of Central Universities, State Universities and Deemed to be Universities *vide* its letter dated 12.11.2014 to make a serious effort to ensure that all vacant positions are filled by the University before the start of the next academic session.

- Further, the UGC supports 'operation faculty recharge' through strengthening high quality research in science related disciplines and promoting innovative teaching in the universities through induction of fresh talent at the level of Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors. Many universities require the support of professionals and experts beyond those available to the university in its regular faculty especially in strengthening high quality research in science-related disciplines, at internationally competitive level and in promoting innovating teaching in universities. Besides, it has provided positions of Adjunct Faculty and Scholars-in-Residence to enrich the teaching and research programmes of the university system at M.Phil and Ph.D levels.
- UGC implements a Travel Grant Scheme that provides financial assistance to permanent teachers and librarians of colleges and vice-chancellors of state universities, deemed to be universities and central universities, recognized under section 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act, to present research papers at international conferences abroad.
- UGC provides financial assistance to teachers teaching in universities and colleges to promote excellence in teaching and research. Research project may be undertaken by an individual teacher or a group of teachers. The ceiling of assistance under the scheme is ₹ 20 lakhs for sciences including Engineering & Technology, Medical, Pharmacy and Agriculture etc. while for humanities, Social Science, Languages, Literature, Arts, Law and allied disciplines, the assistance is ₹ 15.00 lakhs.

DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITIES

The UGC conducted a comprehensive review of 124 Deemed to be Universities in the year 2009. The review included availability of faculty as per the norms and standards of the Statutory Council(s) concerned. The Committees found that faculty was inadequate in 17 Deemed to be Universities and needed further augmentation in 8 Deemed to be Universities. The observations/suggestions of the UGC Expert Committees were sent to the Deemed to be Universities concerned for compliance. These Deemed to be Universities have submitted compliance in respect of faculty. Out of the 25 Deemed to be Universities, 24 have taken corrective measures for augmentation of faculty as suggested by the UGC Expert Committees.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

The UGC has so far inspected 62 Private Universities. A new procedure has been adopted for inspection of these Private Universities. The Expert Committees are requested to evaluate and comment whether the faculty is well qualified and well trained; the proportion of permanent faculty adequate, the university followed due process for recruitment of faculty, etc. After adoption of the new process, 9 Private Universities have been inspected and the reports are being placed before the Commission. The Universities would be asked to comply with the deficiencies pointed out by the UGC Expert Committees.

IITS

Arising of vacancies and filling them up with suitable, qualified candidates is a continuous process. The IITs have been taking measures to attract quality faculty, which include year-round open advertisements, invitation through search-cum-selection procedures to alumni/scientists/faculty, advertisements in international journals, and appointment of NRIs and PIOs to faculty positions on the same terms as applicable to regular faculty. In addition, Institutes are engaging contract, adjunct and visiting faculty. The Government has also launched the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) to enable foreign faculty to teach some courses in the higher educational institutions. Steps such as outstanding young faculty awards, mobility of faculty from one Central Educational Institute to another, and pay parity to faculty have also been taken to attract best faculty in these Institutions. There is no adverse effect on studies in the institute due to shortage of faculty, as the same is adequately compensated by the research scholars, contract, adjunct and visiting faculty.

Other Technical Institutions

AICTE is conscious of the shortage and availability of qualified faculty in technical institutions and have launched various schemes to attract young generation towards teaching profession and skill upgradation of existing faculty. The faculties are given enormous chances to improve their educational qualification under Quality Improvement Programme (QIP), Research Promotion Scheme (RPS) and Modernization and Removal of Obsole Science (MODROBS). Faculty Development Programme (FDP) provides opportunities to faculty member of AICTE approved Colleges / Institutions to facilitate upgradation of their knowledge and skill. In addition, under Travel Grant Programme(TG) meritorious faculty gets opportunities to interact at International Level Seminars, and Symposia, both within and outside India. Teachers from AICTE approved Technical Institutions / University departments are eligible for this grant. Proposals are received from Govt./ Govt. aided Engineering Colleges/University Department and self financing AICTE approved technical institutes which are considered and entitled for the grant. Grants are released for supporting research and other aspects of technical education.

Various Schemes for providing financial assistance to faculty members for quality education/ research and capacity building programmes are summarized as follows:-

Trainee Teacher Scheme:- Trainee Teacher Scheme was launched in 2016. The scheme is intended towards attracting bright Undergraduate and Postgraduate students to teaching profession by providing scholarships for pursuing M.Tech/Ph.D Programme and assured job for advancing their professional growth. The maximum funding is ₹ 2.5 lakhs maximum for three years over and above other financial assistance/ scholarship, if any.

Under this scheme 50 Proposals were received from Undergraduate and Postgraduate students out of these 50 Proposals 01 Proposal was recommended by the Expert Committee and is under process.

Quality Improvement Programme (QIP):- The objective of the scheme is to upgrade the expertise and capabilities of the faculty members of the degree level institutions in the country. The aim is to enable the teachers to acquire Master's/Doctoral degrees. Scholarships are paid @ ₹ 9000/- per month for M. Tech and ₹ 15,000/- per month for Ph.D. for a maximum period of two and three years respectively.

Year wise breakup; Nos. of Faculty completed/ enrolled, M.Tech, Ph.D

Sl. No.	Name of Course	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Ph.D	552	466	382
2.	M.Tech	267	188	102

Scheme of Travel Grant (TG):- The scheme is aimed at promoting research and development activities in various areas of Technical Education for meritorious faculties to interact at international level to update the global changes in the field of concerned fields of specialization. Total funding of ₹ 1.5 lakh (reimbursement of Airfare, Registration fee and per Diem) once in three year.

Adjunct Faculty (ADF):- With a key objectives to have a strong and robust collaboration between the educational Institutions and industry & to encourage quality involvement of persons working in industry, academicians, scholars, practitioners, policy makers in teaching, research, and related services on a regular basis, a Scheme of Adjunct Faculty has been initiated from the financial year 2015-16. Such involvement helps in bringing external perspective to regular teaching to make classes more interesting and to further enrich existing knowledge of faculty members. Maximum Budget of the Scheme is 96 lakhs.

188 proposals were received online & the same were placed before the Committee of Experts to evaluate. Expert Committee recommended 16 proposals. These proposals are processed in the current financial year 2016-17.

Research Promotion Scheme (RPS):- is aimed to create research ambience in the institutes by promoting research in engineering sciences and innovations in established and newer technologies; and to provide opportunities to Master's and Doctoral degree holders faculty members to augment the quality of faculty and research personnel in the country.

A grant to the tune of ₹ 23.73 Crores was given to 254 beneficiaries institutes in the last 3 years for implementation of RPS Scheme.

Research Park Scheme:- The Scheme promotes Industry and Institute partnership. Grant of ₹ 1.00 Crore (per State/UT) is being given under this scheme to each beneficiary. The duration of project is 3-year.

During the financial year 2016-17 the council had released a sum of ₹ 34,50,667/- under Research Park Scheme.

The Government has launched the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) to enable foreign faculty to teach courses in the higher educational institutions during Summer/Winter Breaks. In addition, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT) also addresses issues like teacher preparation and their professional development.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee feels that the steps taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development particularly, in respect of Central Universities have hardly achieved any result as more than one-third faculty positions are still vacant. The Committee does not consider that raising the age of faculty to 65 is a desired and permanent measure which will help strengthening the faculty position. The Committee, therefore, , feels that there is hardly any improvement in the situation. Further, there has been consistent decline in the enrolment in the Ph.D and M.Tech programs. As regards the Under Trainee Teacher Scheme, out of 50 proposals, only one proposal has been recommended by the Expert Committee because the Committee strongly feels that the Government have to make efforts in a mission mode manner if it actually wants to address the situation.

Observations / Recommendations

11.14 The Committee recommends that recruitment process should start well in advance before the post is vacated so that after retirement, the newly recruited person takes up position immediately. The Ministry should work in tandem with Institutions to have this exercise on yearly basis and recruitment must be done in advance so that shortage does not develop into crisis. While taking note of the steps taken up by the Department for filling up the vacancies, the Committee observes that in order to make the teaching profession more attractive, the government's effort to allow and encourage the faculty to undertake consultancy and the financial support, for setting up start up have to be lucrative enough so as to meet the expectations of the aspirants. The Committee accordingly directs the Department of Higher Education to explore the possibilities and take necessary steps on priority basis.

Action Taken

For tenure based posts, the University Grants Commission has issued advisory to all Higher Educational Institutions that recruitment process for posts of Vice-Chancellors and other academic administrators should be started well before the end of tenure of the incumbent.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee feels that the delay in the recruitment process of teachers/faculties and for the post of Vice-Chancellor in the academic institutions leads to lowering of academic standards in these institutions. The Committee also points out that the Department should encourage the institutions to make the students pursuing PhD/Doctoral degrees to teach some courses at the

degree level with some financial support. This would encourage more students to take up teaching profession and also mitigate the crises of faculty shortage in these institutes.

FACULTY POSITIONS

Observations / Recommendations

11.15 The Committee further recommends that in order to improve the position there should be an increase in the number of research fellowships for M.Phil, PhD and Post Doctoral Programme to create potential faculty for universities and colleges and also increase the number of fellowship and amount through NET. The Department should also provide an opportunity to the teachers to present papers in academic conferences seminars or participate in workshops; exchange knowledge and ideas; and the young faculty member to spend a short period of two weeks to two months at institutions of their choice for a better academic exposure.

Action Taken

In order to improve the position, UGC has increased in the number of research fellowships for M.Phil, Ph.D and Post Doctoral Programme to create potential faculty for universities and colleges and also increase the expenditure in last three years as under:

	2014-15	2015-16	Percentage increase in 2015-16 over 2014-15	2016-17	Percentage increase in 2016-17 over 2015-16
Beneficiaries	51545	74754	45.02	83235	11.34
Expenditure (in crore)	877.06	1177.62	34.26	1443.44	22.57

UGC implements a Travel Grant Scheme that provides financial assistance to permanent teachers and librarians of colleges and vice-chancellors of state universities, deemed to be universities and central universities, recognized under section 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act, to present research papers at international conferences abroad.

Comments of the Committee

From the reply of the Department, it is evident that the percentage increase of no of beneficiaries for research fellowships in M.Phil, Ph.D and Post Doctoral Program in the year 2016-17 is comparatively less than the percentage increase for research fellowships in the year 2015-16. The Committee suggests that wide publicity be given to Research fellowships programme to attract potential faculties in higher education sector.

CHAPTER-IV

**RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLY OF
THE GOVERNMENT IS STILLAWAITED.**

-NIL-

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS — AT A GLANCE

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO

The Committee takes note of the Government's initiative. However, it may be apprised of impact of the scheme. (Para 3.4)

The Committee takes note of the reply given by the Department of Higher Education. It appears both the coordination between the Centre & State Governments and the monitoring mechanism as set up by the MHRD are not yielding desired result. Had that been so, more than 75% funds, would have not remained utilized. This is a serious issue and needs to be addressed without delay. The Committee would like to have a progress report in this regard so as to ensure the full and proper utilization of funds earmarked for the purpose. (Para 4.6 & 4.7)

PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA NATIONAL MISSION ON TEACHERS & TEACHING (PMMMNMTT)

The Committee observes that this scheme aims to train teachers and provide them education and training in a holistic manner besides addressing related issues of teacher preparation, professional development etc, comprehensively. The Committee notes with concern that the Department has not given year-wise physical and financial targets of the scheme to the Committee. In the absence of such details it is difficult to assess the gains of the scheme or ascertain its pace. The Committee can only conclude that the attitude of the Department towards implementation of the Scheme is lackadaisical lethargic. The Committee recommends that this scheme should be pushed forward with mission mode manner. (Para 65)

The Committee would appreciate if it is apprised of the steps taken by the Department to enhance the number of Research fellowships. It may also be informed if any proposal to enhance the fellowship amount is being considered presently. The Committee would like to be informed about the steps taken regarding academia-industry connect. (Para 10.3)

FACULTY POSITIONS

The Committee feels that the steps taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development particularly, in respect of Central Universities have hardly achieved any result as more than one-third faculty positions are still vacant. The Committee does not consider that raising the age of faculty to 65 is a desired and permanent measure which will help strengthening the faculty position. The Committee, therefore, feels that there is hardly any improvement in the situation. Further, there has been consistent decline in the enrolment in the Ph.D and M.Tech programmes. As regards the Under Trainee Teacher Scheme, out of 50 proposals, only one proposal has been recommended by the Expert Committee because the Committee strongly feels that the Government have to make efforts in a mission mode manner if it actually wants to address the situation. (Para 11.11, 11.12 & 11.13)

The Committee feels that the delay in the recruitment process of teachers/faculties and for the post of Vice-Chancellor in the academic institutions leads to lowering of academic standards in these institutions. The Committee also points out that the Department should encourage the institutions to make the students pursuing PhD/Doctoral degrees to teach some courses at the

degree level with some financial support. This would encourage more students to take up teaching profession and also mitigate the crises of faculty shortage in these institutes. (Para 11.14)

FACULTY POSITIONS

From the reply of the Department, it is evident that the percentage increase of no. of beneficiaries for research fellowships in M.Phil, Ph.D and Post Doctoral Programme in the year 2016-17 is comparatively less than the percentage increase for research fellowships in the year 2015-16. The Committee suggests that wide publicity be given to Research fellowships programme to attract potential faculties in higher education sector. (Para 11.15)

MINUTES

V
FIFTH MEETING

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 10.30 P.M. on Thursday, the 4th January, 2018 in Committee Room No. '62', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa
3. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad
4. Shri Gopal Narayan Singh

LOK SABHA

5. Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat
6. Shri Nihal Chand
7. Smt. Geetha Kothapalli
8. Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra
9. Dr. Bhagirath Prasad
10. Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh
11. Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati
12. Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher

SECRETARIAT

Shri K.P. Singh, *Joint Secretary*

Shri Vinay Shankar Singh, *Additional Director*

Shri Arun Kumar, *Deputy Secretary*

Shrimati Himanshi Arya, *Under Secretary*

Shri K. Sudhir Kumar, *Research Officer*

Shri Mohit Misra, *Committee Officer*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the draft (i) 294th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations / recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty third Report on "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day-Meal Scheme", (ii) 295th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations / recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty fourth Report on "Issues and Challenges before Higher Education Sector in India", (iii) 296th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, (iv) 297th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Department of Higher Education, (v) 298th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Eighty ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and (vi) 299th Report on the National Sports University Bill, 2017.

3. The Committee considered the draft 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th and 299th Reports and adopted them after some discussion.
4. The Committee, then, decide to present/lay the 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th and 299th Reports to both the Houses of the Parliament on 5th January, 2018. The Committee authorized the Chairman and in his absence, Shri Partap Singh Bajwa, M.P., Rajya Sabha to present the Reports in the Rajya Sabha and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, M.P., Lok Sabha and in his absence Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati, M.P., Lok Sabha to lay the Reports in the Lok Sabha.
5. The Committee then adjourned at 11.00 A.M.