PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

HUNDRED – THIRTY FOURTH REPORT

ON

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH REPORT ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON   10TH APRIL, 2003)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 10TH APRIL, 2003)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
APRIL, 2003/VAISAKHA, 1925 (SAKA)

C O N T E N T S

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Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer
Smt. Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

PREFACE

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Hundred Thirty-Fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Hundred thirteenth Report on Technical Education of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2002-2003.

2.   The Hundred thirteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 18th December, 2002. Replies of the Government on the recommendations contained in the Report, received from the Department of Secondary and Higher Education Ministry of Human Resource Development were considered by the Committee at its meetings meeting held on the 9th January, 2003.

3.   The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 7th April, 2003.

NEW DELHI   **ARJUN SINGH**
April 7, **2003**   **Chairman**
Chaitra 17, 1925 (*Saka*)   Department-related Parliamentary Standing
                                                     Committee on Human Resource Development

REPORT

The Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in its One Hundred Thirteenth Report on Technical Education presented to Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

2.   Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of the recommendations contained in the Report. They have been categorized as follows:-

Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: 2.4, 2.11, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.21, 5.4, 7.2, 10, 11.2 (Chapter I) Total- 13

Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:2.8, 3.17, 8.2   (Chapter II) Total- 3

Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: 2.4, 2.5, 3,6, 3.22, 3.24, 5.3, 6.4, 6.5   (Chapter-III) Total- 8

Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies/final replies of the Government are still awaited: 2.1,2.9,2.10, 3.4, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.16, 3.19 4.3, 6.5, 6.6, 9.2 (Chapter IV) Total- 13

The replies/final replies in respect of the recommendations/observations made in Chapter IV of

the Report are still awaited from the Department. The Committee may be apprised of the same as and when action is taken.

CHAPTER I
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – ROLE OF AICTE

Observation/Recommendation

2.4 The Committee is of the view that the Department and AICTE should make all conceivable efforts for encouraging both Govt. and private initiatives in setting up technical institutions in N-E region.

Action Taken

Setting up of institutes on self-financing basis by Trusts/Societies is being encouraged. As of now, there are 26 polytechnics, 8 Engg colleges, 7 Management Colleges and 18 PG programmes in the North Eastern Region. During 2001-2002, out of 3 applications received for setting up of Diploma Level, 2 were approved; 1 application received for degree could not be approved as it did not meet norms and standards. Also, during 2001-2002, 3 PG programmes were considered and approved.

Observation/Recommendation

2.11   It has been further informed that in April, 2000, AICTE had written to each State Government to prepare a perspective plan for developing technical education in the state and for qualitative improvement of technical education.   However, none of the States has given any perspective plan for development of technical education and the Council has so far not been provided with any feedback from the State Govts. regarding the quality of technical education, manpower requirement, employment opportunities etc.   The Committee is of the view that AICTE should impress upon the State Govts. to furnish the required information at the earliest.

Action Taken

Noted for compliance.

INCONSISTENCIES IN DIFFERENT PROCEDURES AND NORMS – REMEDIAL SUGGESTIONS THEREFOR

Observation/Recommendation

3.2   The Committee was informed that in spite of academic eligibility prescribed by AICTE for Degree and Diploma level courses, different States follow different academic eligibility criteria and there is no uniformity in the minimum cut off percentage which creates confusion. During its study visit to Chennai, the Sub-Committee was informed that in Tamil Nadu a minimum of 60% in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry individually and an aggregate of 70% at the 10+2 level is considered as entry criteria into the Professional courses.   However, in other States like Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and UT of Pondicherry, they require a pass percentage of 50 % .   Due to this differential eligibility criteria and other reasons, nearly 20,000 seats in Tamil Nadu remained unfilled this year. The Committee strongly feels that there should be uniformity at all India level for selection/eligibility criteria for admission in different technical education courses as far as possible.   The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department and AICTE, alongwith State Governments, should work out common modalities in this regard.

Action Taken

In order to ensure uniformity at the all- India level for selection / eligibility for technical institutions in the country, AICTE had framed regulations in 1994; Norms and Guidelines for Fees and Guidelines for Admissions in Professional Colleges Regulation, 1994". Most of the States conduct a common entrance examination for admission, and they are following the requirements of the AICTE guidelines. From the academic year 2002-2003, a Common Entrance Test for admission in engineering colleges (AIEEE) has been introduced. More and more higher technical colleges, in consultation with the State Governments, will be included in the entrance examination in the near future. AICTE is also in the process of evolving mechanism for conduct of a common

entrance examination for MBA and MCA courses.
Observation/Recommendation
3.3   The Committee's attention was drawn to the practice of different Universities in the country awarding degrees under different nomenclature and resultant difficulty in establishing their equivalence. A suggestion was, therefore, made that AICTE should publish a list of such degrees with their equivalence to Degree in Engineering, PG Degree in Engineering and Diploma in Engineering which should be given wide publicity.
Action Taken
AICTE has communicated the approved nomenclature of Bachelors degree in Engineering & Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture, Diploma programmes, PG programmes and Ph.D programmes to all the Universities. This information is also included in the application forms for starting new technical institutions as well as the AICTE handbook for approval of courses.
Observations/Recommendations
The Committee is also surprised to note that discrepancy is also there in respect of career advancement for the faculty members of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics. Latest circular of AICTE recommending the new Pay Scales states that a Lecturer requires eleven years service to get the selection grade without improving any qualification, whereas a Lecturer in Diploma level institution requires a higher qualification, i.e. Master's Degree in Engineering in order to become eligible for selection grade. In other words, teachers who are teaching the diploma programme need higher qualifications as compared to teachers who are teaching the students in the Degree Colleges.
Action Taken
A review of the Career Advancement Scheme will be taken up and discrepancy, if any, will be sorted out.
Observation/Recommendation
3.8   The Committee was also apprised that there was no uniformity in the admission schedules of different States. As a result, students face difficulty while seeking admission in different states. Not only this, at present different admission tests are conducted on different dates for admission to various technical institutions in the country.   Sometimes, it is observed that various entrance test dates clash creating problems for the candidates and also putting a lot of financial burden on their parents.   In this context, it was suggested that a uniform/common entrance test may be held for students seeking admission to different institutions on All India basis. Another suggestion made was that only one combined entrance test for one stream of technical education may be conducted at All India level.
3.9   The Committee, in this context, was informed that in the IIT, JEE, already IT-BHU and ISM-Dhanbad are participating in addition to the IITs. The ambit of IIT-JEE is being expanded from the year 2002 to include three other premier national level institutions (NIFFI, IITT, IITM) that have been conducting their separate tests. The Committee was also informed that the Government is planning to hold an All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) for admission to undergraduate programmes in Engineering which will cover all Centrally funded technical institutions, including Deemed Universities in the field of technical education. All other institutions in the States that agree to participate in this test may be included and gradually the Examination will be extended to all technical institutions in the country. The Committee hopes that more and more States would participate in the Test and the Test may be conducted at the earliest, preferably from 2002-2003 academic session.
Action Taken
          AIEEE has been started from the academic year 2002-03. It is expected that more and more States/Institutions will participate in the coming years.
Observation/Recommendation
3.10   As per Section 10 of AICTE Act, which defines Powers and Functions of the Council, there are varied functions to be discharged by AICTE.   However, it has been observed that AICTE basically keeps itself engrossed with the function under section 10 (k) i.e. grant of approval for starting new technical institutions and for introduction of new courses or programmes in consultation with the

agencies concerned.   However, other equally important functions like undertaking surveys, coordinating for development of technical education in the country, promoting innovations, research and development, formulating schemes for promoting technical education for women, handicapped and weaker sections of society have been neglected.   The Committee, therefore, recommends that AICTE should not restrict its activities to granting approval or fixing norms, formulating guidelines for fees etc. but it should discharge its other functions as well which are necessary for proper, coordinated and qualitative improvement of technical education in the country as prescribed in the AICTE Act.

Action Taken

AICTE is giving due importance to other activities of technical education such as Research and Institutional Development Schemes / Projects, Faculty Development Schemes / Projects and improvement of quality of education through Accreditation of programmes. Reviews of the existing schemes have been initiated and on the basis of these reviews, the recommended existing activities will be strengthened further, and new activities will be initiated.

Observation/Recommendation

3.21   The Committee was further informed that accreditation has been made mandatory for all institutions from which at least two batches have passed out.   The grades awarded are put on web site of AICTE. Steps have also been taken to caution the general public regarding the quality of grades assigned by the National Board of Accreditation through various other modes of awareness.   The Committee is of the considered view that accreditation and gradation of institutions should be given more coverage and wider area of operation so that general public are aware of the status of the institutions before they apply for it.

Action Taken

AICTE publishes the results of accreditation of programs of the various technical institutions in a Directory. This information is also available at NBA Website (www.nba-aicte.org) and AICTE Website (www.aicte.ernet.in). The Council has published in national newspapers information about the nature and scope of accreditation as an indication of Quality Assurance for the benefit of prospective students and parents. The Council is also bringing out posters for disseminating this information.

TEACHERS

Observation/Recommendation

5.4   The Committee has also been given to understand that possibility of relaxing the Ph.D. qualification for Asstt.   Professor level, if there is evidence of quality R&D and Industry work is there, can be explored.   Inviting industry/ R&D personnel of Public/Private Sector as guest lecturers and permitting personal consultancy were the other suggestions put forth for solving the problem of faculty shortage**.**   The Committee recommends that feasibility of these suggestions should be reviewed and decision taken accordingly.

Action Taken

As per the existing AICTE regulations, candidates with Ph.D are eligible for appointment as Assistant Professor. However, considering the severe shortage of Ph.Ds in Technical Education, the concerned Boards are examining the possibility of relaxing Ph.D., if there is evidence of quality R&D activity. This measure is to be taken for a limited period till adequate number of Ph.Ds are available. Several technical institutions also invite personnel from industry and R&D institutions as visiting faculty.

AUTONOMY

Observation/Recommendation

7.2   There is no denying the fact that granting autonomy will go a long way in accomplishing self-reliance and would encourage healthy competition. The Committee, however, feels that granting autonomy without judging the capability of institutions will degrade the quality of education. Only such institutions which have proper track record and committed to quality should be given autonomy.   The Committee would, therefore, like to emphasize that autonomy should be given only to selected institutions that have consistently maintained excellent performance in the recent past.

Action Taken

Grant of autonomy for technical institutions is given as per set guidelines of AICTE Autonomy is

accorded only to institutions possessing adequate infrastructure and competent faculty which are assessed through accreditation of the programmes and expert committee visits.

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Observation/Recommendation

10 The need for establishing a Technical University in each State under which all technical institutions in the State are affiliated has been much talked about during the visits of the Sub-Committee.   The Committee finds that some States have taken up the initiative for establishing Technical Universities. As a result, some of the major concerns such as delay in admission, delay in the beginning of academic session, reduction in number of academic days required for a semester, non-uniformity in basic structure of curriculum etc. have been alleviated.   The Committee, therefore, recommends, that with the vast expansion of technical education in different States, the possibility of setting up of Technical Universities in every State or group of states may be examined by the Government. However, it should be ensured that such universities are managed by experts in the field of technical education, so that professional approach of the management may help the university for proper growth of technical education and monitoring of technical institutions in the State.

Action Taken

Technical Universities have been set up in several States in the country. They are headed by Vice-Chancellors who are eminent persons and experts in the field of technical education.

FUNDING

Observation/Recommendation

The Committee feels that shortage of funds could be tackled through generation of resources by the Institutions themselves.   This could be done through Industry Institute contacts, generation of technology for the Industry, renting the labs, Consultancy and encouraging the alumni who are abroad and are in a position to contribute towards growth of technical education in the Country. The Committee would, however, like to emphasize that Govt. has also to simultaneously continue funding technical education with increased allocation wherever feasible. The Committee would like to point out that availability of infrastructure in most of the States needs substantial improvement. Govt. may take some initiative in this regard specially in view of poor financial condition of majority of the State Governments.

 Action Taken

In the accreditation criteria, the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) has given importance to Industry sponsored research, continuing education and consultancy as important ingredients of institutional activities. It is observed that several institutions have initiated progress in all these areas as a result of NBA requirement. AICTE provides funding under the schemes of MODROBS, TAPTEC & R&D schemes for institutions on the basis of proposals made by them for improvement and modernization of infrastructure and promotion of R&D.

CHAPTER II

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

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT- ROLE OF AICTE

Observation/Recommendation

2.8   The Committee also observes that with the ongoing recession in industry, demand for IT has shown a declining trend. Quite a few sanctioned seats in IT and Computer Science are remaining vacant. The Committee, therefore, strongly feels that for a balanced development there should be a planned and coordinated development of every branch of technical education. Courses in core areas like Civil/Electrical Engineering etc are required to be continued and updated by introducing specialization in keeping with the changing technological scenario. The Committee is of the opinion that while starting Information Technology and related courses, the requirements of various States need to be kept in view so as to remove regional imbalances and disparity.

Action Taken

The demand for particular courses of technical education mainly depends on the employment opportunities available in the States in respect of a particular branch of technical education. However, in the Regional Committee meetings, effort is made to point out to the State Government representatives that every branch should be given adequate consideration.

Observation/Recommendation

3.17   During its study visits, the Committee was given to understand that a number of schemes, such as Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence (MODROB), Research and Development (R&D), Thrust Area Programme in Technical Education (TAPTEC) etc. operate under AICTE through which financial assistance is provided to technical institutions. However, many of the Govt. as well as self-financing institutions were unaware of such schemes and consequently failed to reap the benefits of such schemes. On a specific query, the Council clarified that all possible attempts to give publicity to various Schemes of Staff Development, Institutional Development, Research and Development through national and local newspapers, AICTE website and also through individual correspondence with the States, Universities and institutions are being made. Every year, more than 40 to 50 crores of rupees are being spent under these schemes. The Committee feels that AICTE should prepare a composite list of financial assistance schemes under separate heads such as Schemes for staff Development, Institutional Development, Research and Development and send it to various Institution directly. In that way, it would give wider publicity to such schemes than what is practised now.

Action Taken

Information relating to the scope of schemes and the procedures for making applications by institutions is already in vogue. In addition, advertisements are placed in national and local dailies (Hindi & English). Copies of booklets of the various schemes are available at the seven Regional Offices and information on these schemes are posted in the AICTE Website. This year the Council has prepared posters summarizing the salient features of the RID schemes and has despatched to the Technical Institutions in various States.

BRAIN DRAIN

Observation/Recommendation

8.2   The Committee has been given to understand that better pay package, career advancement, conducive work environment, freedom to work to one's full potential, job satisfaction and security may help curbing brain drain. Another suggestion made to the Committee was that it should be made compulsory for a Graduate /Post Graduate of technical education to serve in India for a minimum period before going abroad. In the event of his going abroad permanently, he should be made to refund the amount spent on his education. The Committee is of the opinion that work environment in the country needs to be improved so that our students find it lucrative to be in their jobs in the country. Besides, gainful opportunities need to be created in the country itself to reverse the brain drain. The Committee feels that if necessary, students may be asked to pay back in easy instalments wherever Govt. funding is there. Modalities in this regard may be explored.

Action Taken

Because of the liberalisation and global scenario, job markets have widened. There are lots of opportunities available to the professionals. The concept of brain drain has also changed. Many professionals get training or work abroad and come back to the country after some years of service.

CHAPTER III
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – ROLE OF AICTE

Observation/Recommendation

2.4   The Committee in this context is of the view that for proper growth of technical education, focus of the Departmernt and AICTE should be on proper planning and coordinated development. Concentration in certain pockets has already given rise to regional imbalance. Therefore, focus should be on the country as a whole.

Action Taken

The AICTE invites applications from all over the country through advertisements in national and regional dailies and also through its Website for establishment of new Technical Institutes and for introduction of new courses. It is for the concerned State Government to keep in view the requirements of different regions within the State while recommending such proposals to AICTE for its approval. All the State Governments have been requested by AICTE to prepare perspective plans for planning of technical education in the respective State. AICTE is proposing to hold National Consultation (NC) involving representatives from State Governments, Universities and also academicians of repute in order to discuss several issues relating to the planning of future growth of technical education in the country including issues of quality and regional imbalance.   Large number of self-financing private institutes were established mainly in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and thus there has been higher concentration of Technical Institution in these States as compared to the States in other regions, particularly in Eastern and Northern Regions. AICTE is aware of such imbalances and is encouraging setting up of new Institutes in those regions having lesser number of Institutes so as to achieve a balanced growth.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that the proper planning and coordinated development of technical education in the country leave much to be desired.

Observation/Recommendation

2.5   Another disturbing development as a result of concentration of technical institutions in a few states is that intake capacity in different streams of technical institutions is not being utilised fully. There are reports that a very large number of seats remain vacant every year.   In most of the States, admission is made through a common entrance test conducted by the State Govt.   On a specific query about the number of seats filled up during the last three years in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, the Committee has been informed that data on vacant seats is not made available to the Council.   Hence, it is not possible to analyse the details in this regard. Expressing its serious concern on such a situation, the Committee would like to point out that an objective analysis of intake capacity and vacancy position in these States is very much required for checking mushroom growth of technical institutions.

Action Taken

An analysis on intake capacity and vacant seats during 2001-2002 in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra has been made and the position is as under:-

State	Total Seats	Seats Vacant	% of Seats Vacant
Tamil Nadu	**48887**	**11583**	**23%**
Andhra Pradesh	46147	493	2%
Karnataka	36535	4908	13%
Maharashtra	44190	3876	8%

In the ensuing meeting of the National Consultation, the issues will be discussed for eliciting views of the State Governments to take corrective measures.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes with concern that during 2001-2002, a large number of seats remained vacant, particularly in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, thus giving an indication that the seats were approved without properly examining the requirements of the States.   The Committee observes that there is need to take suitable remedial measures in this regard.

INCONSISTENCIES IN DIFFERENT PROCEDURES AND NORMS – REMEDIAL SUGGESTIONS THEREFOR

Observation/Recommendation

The Committee has also been given to understand that there is a lot of discrepancy in AICTE norms

and standards in respect of educational qualifications prescribed for various faculty positions in Engineering, Architecture, Pharmacy and Polytechnics. It was informed to the Committee that a Lecturer in the Engineering College needs 1st class Bachelor's Degree whereas a Lecturer in Pharmacy College & Architecture College needs 1st Class Master's Degree in the same pay scale.

 Action Taken

The qualifications prescribed for Pharmacy and Architecture degree level institutions are based on the recommendations of the Board of Pharmacy Education and Board of Architecture Education.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that anomalies should be removed to the extent they place students of these disciplines at disadvantage.   There should be a level playing field in this regard.

Observation/Recommendation

3.22   It has been reported that many universities are not periodically updating curricula for different streams of technical education. As a result, curricula used for imparting training are not in tune with the requirements of industry. The Committee notes that the Council does not have any mandate to revise the curricula which is the responsibility of respective universities which affiliate technical institutions. The Committee is however, given to understand that Council has endeavoured to prescribe a model curriculum in various major branches of engineering, pharmacy, computer applications etc.   The Committee is of the view that updated curricula in tune with the present global scenario is the very basis for maintaining the required standard of all streams of technical education.   The Committee, therefore, recommends that a joint mechanism for periodical updating of curricula for different streams of technical education consisting of representatives of universities, State Boards of Technical Education, AICTE and industry needs to be evolved.

Action Taken

AICTE has been preparing model curricula for various programs / courses for technical education. These curricula have been prepared by Working Groups which included industry experts and have been coordinated largely by QIP centres. Many of these curricula have been updated by a panel of experts which include industry professionals and academicians.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is aware that AICTE prepares model curricula for various programmes/courses of technical education.   However, it is of the view that this is not serving the desired objective as the universities affiliating various technical institutions are free to either adopt them or reject them.   This is why, the Committee had earlier recommended that a joint mechanism consisting of representatives of universities, State Boards of Technical Education, AICTE and Industry needs to be evolved for preparing/updating the curricula as per the changing requirement, which can be suitable to all concerned.

Observation/Recommendation

3.24   The Council further clarified that at the time of granting approval, the intimation is also given to the respective states and the affiliating University for ensuring the adherence to the norms and standards as set by the Council.   The Committee is of the view that requisite norms and standards are not being scrupulously adhered to on the part of the concerned authorities. It, therefore, recommends strict adherence to the prescribed norms and standard.

Action Taken

Adherence to the prescribed norms and standards is monitored through visits of expert committee for extension of approval at regular intervals. Shortcoming/ discrepancies/ non-compliance of Norms and Standards noticed are brought to the notice of the institutes concerned for remedial/corrective action. Punitive action is taken including 'no admissions' and 'reduced intake' in case of non-compliance.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee observes that the question of overseeing the entire process of entrance examinations to technical institutions is very important and crucial for students.   While AICTE

must take steps to ensure, by bringing more and more institutions in its ambit or otherwise, that no inconvenience is caused to the students by clash of examination dates, costly and time consuming procedures, inconvenient and distant located examination centres etc.

At the same time AICTE must keep in view that not more than 20% of students are able to reach the university level of education. It is, therefore, imperative that the system of education from the secondary level or even earlier must have ingredients in its syllabus that minimum reliance is placed on white-collar jobs. The syllabus should have vocational content so much so that after completing secondary education one must be able to reach the top levels in technical education though I.I.Ts., I.T.Is. and such other institutions. At the same time the aim should be to provide technical education and that too at the Government cost to all those who want to pursue this.

TEACHERS

Observation/Recommendation

5.3   The Committee notes that through the Early Faculty Induction Programme, an amount of Rs. 10,000 is provided as scholarship from Eighth Semester onwards to B. Tech students who are selected through a National Level screening. 1100 qualified, trained and committed faculty members for technical education was the target fixed by AICTE by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan. The Committee is, however, constrained to observe that this programme could be launched only in 1999-2000 due to non-availability of the approval of the Central Govt. 30, 92 and 40 students joined the programme during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively against 300 available scholarships provided by AICTE. The Committee is of the view that wide publicity should be given to such programmes so as to attract student community towards teaching. The Committee is perturbed to note that separate budget is yet to be sanctioned for this Programme by the Central Govt. Taking strong objection to such uncalled for delay, the Committee emphasizes that the needful should be done at the earliest. The Committee also hopes that recommendations of the Committee on Post Graduate Education and Research in Engineering and Technology for doubling of annual out- turn of various programmes in PG courses in Engineering and Technology will be implemented at the earliest.

Action Taken

Based on the Report of the AICTE PG Review Committee, MHRD issued policy framework on PG Education and Research in Engineering & Technology. Accordingly, AICTE has issued notifications in the national newspapers on the increase of duration from 18 months to 24 months for all M Tech / M Pharm / M. Arch programmes as well as increase in the stipend from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000 beginning from academic year 2002-2003.

AICTE has also set up a working group for preparing action plan for implementation of the other recommendations of the Committee.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee notes the position and awaits further development.

INSTITUTION – INDUSTRY LINK

Observation/Recommendation

6.4   The Committee is of the view that industry must be consulted for curriculum formulation and joint Research and Development programme. Besides that, industry can also be actively involved in the conducting and evaluation of training programmes. The Committee feels that feasibility of attaching technical institutions with nearby industries also needs to be explored.

Action Taken

AICTE involves professionals from Industry in the development of model curricula. Several schemes such as Industry-Institute Partnership Cell, National Facilities in Engineering and Technology with Industrial Collaborations, Entrepreneurship and Management Development, Nationally Coordinated Projects (NCP), etc. are being implemented by AICTE to have wider participation of Industry in the development of Technical Education system.

The concept of attaching technical institutions with nearby industries have been explored by some of the States like Punjab, etc. by initiating actions such as setting up of industry incubation centers in the

technical institutions, compulsory visits to the industry, taking real life projects / assignments / consultancy work in nearby industries etc.

Comments of the Committee

With computerization and information technology having acquired deeper roots in the country, possibility of preparing a data base in respect of the potential of students particularly in technical fields should be available at one site, which can be accessed by the industry for generating employment, should be considered.

Observation/Recommendation

6.5   The Committee would also like to point out that on a larger perspective it is necessary to assess the manpower requirement of major industries and their needs.   Courses should be formulated accordingly.   Intake of students should be decided on the basis of requirement of industries.   In that way, unemployment and under-employment could be tackled in a better manner or else industry would be requiring manpower as per their needs and we would be producing manpower not fit for them.

Action Taken

AICTE is funding a project on National Technical Manpower Information System (NTMIS) to IAMR. The NTMIS reports provide information on rate of absorption *vis-a-vis* technical manpower output.

AICTE has set-up a Board under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Aatre, Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri to advise on how to better utilize the NTMIS data for manpower development which matches industry requirements.

AICTE had already requested all State Governments to prepare Perspective Plan including manpower requirements.

The proposed National Consultation workshop will also examine this issue.

Comments of the Committee

The committee would like to know response of the States in respect of preparation of the Perspective Plan as well as conclusions of the proposed National Consultation Workshop for its consideration as soon as possible.

CHPATER IV
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES/FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – ROLE OF AICTE

Observation/Recommendation

2.1 The Committee, after undertaking extensive field visits and discussing the status of technical education in the country with various experts in the field, is of the considered opinion that AICTE has failed to accomplish the mandate given to it under the Act.   The Committee has found that there is no proper planning, proper assessment of technical manpower, balanced development, coordinated approach, and quality maintenance regarding technical education.

Observation/Recommendation

2.9   Committee's attention has also been drawn to a recent decision of the Apex Court (Bharatidasan University vs AICTE and Others) which indicates that the Universities are not obliged to seek prior permission of AICTE to introduce any technical courses in their departments and constituent colleges. The Apex Court has further decided that the role of AICTE with respect to Universities imparting technical education is recommendatory in nature.   The Committee has been given to understand that this decision would lead to different norms for Universities and other Technical institutions, different quality parameters and, therefore, different standards of education which would eventually result in lopsided development of technical education.   The Committee feels that implications of the aforesaid judgement may be studied in their entirety and remedial steps, if required, may be initiated.

Action Taken

An Expert Committee has been set up to review the situation arising out of the decision of the apex court in this regard.   Based on the recommendations, remedial measures will be taken.

Observation/Recommendation

2.10   The Committee is of the view that for planned development of technical education, accurate data regarding demand and supply of technical manpower is necessary. As per Section 10 (a) of AICTE Act, the Council is empowered to undertake survey in various fields of technical education, collect data on all related matters and make forecast of the needed growth and development in technical education. The Council has initiated a scheme for collecting data and forecasting the demand and supply of technical manpower in the country through National Technical Manpower Information System (NTMIS) which has established various nodal centres in the country.   The findings of NTMIS are made available to the user agencies including State Governments**.**   The Committee is, however, constrained to note that at present NTMIS is not being effectively made use of which has led to uncontrolled and imbalanced growth of technical institutions, many of them being sub-standard.

INCONSISTENCIES IN DIFFERENT PROCEDURES AND NORMS – REMEDIAL SUGGESTIONS THEREFOR

Observation/Recommendation

3.4   The Committee observes that various Technical Institutes/Boards award degrees in technical education. It becomes difficult to establish the equivalence of such degrees for the purpose of admission and also for the purpose of recruitment. It was suggested that a State Council of Technical Education be set- up in all the States of the country and the Engineers who qualify in various examinations should get registered with SCTE for the purpose of admission to Technical Institution for acquiring higher qualification as well as for the purpose of recruitment. The practice which is followed by Medical Council of India (MCI), Council of Architecture and Pharmacy Council of India may be made applicable to the engineering graduates and Diploma holders.

Action Taken

Action may be taken only after discussion with the States. The matter will be taken up in the National Consultation meeting.

Observation/Recommendation

3.11   The Sub-Committee, during its interaction with various experts, got an impression that AICTE has become highly centralised and there is need for decentralisation of its powers among its regional offices. The Committee also feels that Regional Offices of AICTE need to be strengthened by delegating more powers by the Head Office to avoid delay and for effective and smooth functioning of the Regional Offices. However, it would like to point out that delegation of powers to the Regional Offices may be done only after sanction of permanent staff for the Council and its Regional Offices. The Committee would also like to point out that in view of tremendous increase in the number of technical institutions in the Country in the recent years, required strength of staff should be sanctioned for Regional Offices.

Action Taken

AICTE has delegated the responsibility of approving Diploma Level Institutions to the concerned State Govts. On the basis of study by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU), requirement of staff in Regional Offices will be determined.

Observation/Recommendation

3.12   The Sub-Committee during its field visits after interacting with different functionaries gathered that the present norm of 5 acres land in metropolitan cities and 25 acres in rural areas for establishing an Engineering College does not seem to be practical. In a Metropolitan City like Mumbai it is very difficult to get the required land. Even in rural areas, due to land ceiling, difficulties were being faced. It was suggested that the requirement of land at different places should be realistic. In metropolitan cities, where land is too scarce, vertical construction could be thought of which would require lesser land.

Action Taken

AICTE had constituted a EC Sub-Committee for review of norms and standards. The report of this committee is now under consideration by the concerned All India Board's (AIBs) and Regional Committees. The requirement of land in metropolitan cities is among various issues considered by the Committee. On submission of Report, the Ministry shall examine it for further necessary action.

Observation/Recommendation

3.13   It was also pointed out that fixed deposit of Rs. 50 lakhs remains blocked which can neither be used by promoters nor by AICTE. A suggestion was, accordingly, made that security deposit taken from institutions should be refunded in case of those institutions which have shifted to their own buildings so that the amount could be utilised for further development of these institutions. Another suggestion made was that there should be option for either having a fixed deposit or bank guarantee.

Action Taken

          This aspect has also been considered by the EC Sub-Committee mentioned above.

Observation/Recommendation

3.16   The Committee notes that a Core Committee under the Chairmanship of the Special Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development has been set up for modification of norms and standards, including requirement of land and fixed deposit for technical institutions. The Committee hopes that the Core Committee will finalise its Report at the earliest and take a realistic and practical approach in the matter.

Observation/Recommendation

3.19   In regard to the misuse of seats under NRI quota, the AICTE has stated that the provision of NRI seats has been long misinterpreted by private institutions and universities. The Council has now clarified vide its circular dated 3rd October, 2001 that unfilled seats under NRI quota shall automatically revert to payment seat category.   The AICTE has further clarified that it is the responsibility of the State Govts. to monitor admission and prevent the misuse of admission against NRI seats.   AICTE also clarified that besides the 5% NRI seats within the approved intake, AICTE has also allowed 15% supernumerary seats for Foreign National/Person of Indian Origin (PIO) through a separate notification dated March 31, 2001.   Seats remaining unfilled under the 15% Foreign National/PIO quota shall not be allocated to anyone other than foreign students/PIO as per the said regulations. The Committee hopes that the AICTE and State Govts. would take necessary steps to see that   NRI quota is not misused.

STAFFING PATTERN IN AICTE

Observation/Recommendation

4.3   The Committee has been informed that AICTE has got its manpower requirement assessed by the Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon which suggested that 60% of the staff of AICTE should be on permanent basis and 40 % could be on ad-hoc basis.   The Committee has been further informed that recommendations in the Report of MDI have been forwarded to the Department for sanction of required posts on regular basis and the consent of the Department is awaited. The Committee feels that ad-hocism in AICTE will not help in its effective functioning and, therefore it recommends that minimum regular posts may be sanctioned without delay. There should be balanced mix of regular and ad-hoc posts in AICTE.

Action Taken

Study of the manpower requirement of AICTE is scheduled to be undertaken by SIU. Based on its recommendations, further necessary action will be taken.

 INSTITUTION – INDUSTRY LINK

Observations/Recommendations

6.5   The Committee would also like to point out that on a larger perspective it is necessary to assess the manpower requirement of major industries and their needs.   Courses should be formulated accordingly.   Intake of students should be decided on the basis of requirement of industries.   In that way, unemployment and under-employment could be tackled in a better manner or else industry would be requiring manpower as per their needs and we would be producing manpower not fit for them.

Observation/Recommendation

6.6   The Committee is also of the view that to promote Industry-institution interaction, the existing schemes like Industry-Institute Partnership Cell, Establishment of National Central Facility in select institutions, Organizing seminars/workshops on topics pertaining to Industry-Institute interaction, encouraging engineers from industry to visit Engineering Institutions to deliver lectures, participation in

curriculum design activity and arranging visits of staff members to various industries should be implemented more vigorously.   Apart from it, certain percentage should also be contributed by Industry towards Research and Development (R&D).

Action Taken
In order to implement the schemes vigorously, a Board of Industry- Institute Interaction has been constituted with Mr N. Kumar, former Chairman of CII, as Chairman. The suggestion of the Committee will be put up before the Board. The recommendations of this board will be considered by the Council for appropriate implementation.
FEE STRUCTURE
Observation/Recommendation
9.2   The Committee, however, observes that all these guidelines/norms laid down by Govt./AICTE have failed to achieve their objective of eliminating the element of commercialization and profit making by having a rationsalised fee-structure. At present, wide variations are observed in the fixation of fee in different states. The Committee notes that AICTE has recently constituted a 'National Fee Committee' which would look into the reported variance in the fees fixed by different State Level Committees. The Committee also notes that this Committee is expected to submit its final report within the next three months and the recommendations thereof shall be implemented from the next year.

OBSERVATONS/RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
The Committee feels that the proper planning and coordinated development of technical education in the country leave much to be desired. (Para No. 2.4)
COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
          The Committee notes with concern that during 2001-2002, a large number of seats remained vacant, particularly in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, thus giving an indication that the seats were approved without properly examining the requirements of the States.   The Committee observes that there is need to take suitable remedial measures in this regard.(Para No. 2.5)
COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
          The Committee feels that anomalies should be removed to the extent they place students of these disciplines at disadvantage.   There should be a level playing field in this regard. (Para No. 3.7)
COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
          The Committee is aware that AICTE prepares model curricula for various programmes/courses of technical education.   However, it is of the view that this is not serving the desired objective as the universities affiliating various technical institutions are free to either adopt them or reject them.   This is why, the Committee had earlier recommended that a joint mechanism consisting of representatives of universities, State Boards of Technical Education, AICTE and Industry needs to be evolved for preparing/updating the curricula as per the changing requirement, which can be suitable to all concerned. (Para No. 3.22)
COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
          The Committee observes that the question of overseeing the entire process of entrance examinations to technical institutions is very important and crucial for students.   While AICTE must take steps to ensure, by bringing more and more institutions in its ambit or otherwise, that no inconvenience is caused to the students by clash of examination dates, costly and time consuming procedures, inconvenient and distant located examination centres etc.
          At the same time AICTE must keep in view that not more than 20% of students are able to reach the university level of education.   It is, therefore, imperative that the system of education from the secondary level or even earlier must have ingredients in its syllabus that minimum

reliance is placed on white-collar   jobs.   The syllabus should have vocational content so much so that after completing secondary education one must be able to reach the top levels in technical education though I.I.Ts., I.T.Is. and such other institutions.   At the same time the aim should be to provide technical education and that too at the Government cost to all those who want to pursue this. (Para No. 3.24)
COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
      The Committee notes the position and awaits further development. (Para No. 5.3)
COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
      With computerization and information technology having acquired deeper roots in the country, possibility of preparing a data base in respect of the potential of students particularly in technical fields should be available at one site, which can be accessed by the industry for generating employment, should be considered. (Para No. 6.4)
COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
      The committee would like to know response of the States in respect of preparation of the Perspective Plan as well as conclusions of the proposed National Consultation Workshop for its consideration as soon as possible. (Para No. 6.5)

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MINUTES

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SECOND MEETING

The Committee met at 11.00 A.M. on Thursday, the 9th January, 2003 in Committee Room No. 139, First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.
Shri Arjun Singh   —— *Chairman*
MEMBERS   PRESENT
      RAJYA SABHA
Dr. Abrar Ahmed
Shri Bachani Lekhraj
Shri Lalhmingliana
Smt. Chandra Kala Pandey
Prof. R.B.S. Varma
LOK SABHA
Shri Kirti Jha Azad
Shri G. S. Basavaraj
Shri Ram Rati Bind
Shri Baliram Kashyap
Shri Brij Lal Khabri
Shri Y.G. Mahajan
Dr. Manda Jagannath
Smt. Nivedita Mane
Smt. Jas Kaur Meena
Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja
Smt. Kumudini Patnaik
Smt. Renu Kumari
Shri Devendra Singh Yadav
      SECRETARIAT
Shri Satish Kumar, Additional Secretary
Shri C.B. Rai, Under Secretary
Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer
Smt. Meena Kandwal, Research Officer
  2.   At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee. The Committee then took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 120th Report of the Committee on Demands for

Grants for 2002-2003 relating to Department. of Secondary and Higher Education and identified the following points/ issues for clarifications from the Department:

Criteria/guidelines regarding opening of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs).

Criteria/guidelines regarding opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs).

Admission procedure in KVs specially in Parliamentary Constituencies where there are no KVs.

Transfer Policy of Teachers/Staff in KVs specially posting of both husband and wife at the same station.

Slow pace of construction of JNVs and KVs .

Improvement in school Laboratories and Libraries.

Transfer of students of JNVs to different states as part of national integration leading to aberration and frustration among students.

Vacancies of teachers and staff in Colleges and Universities and Role of UGC in filling of vacancies.

Status of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) regarding implementation of reservation policy.

Implementation of the scheme for Education of SC/ST Girls in Rajasthan, non-release of funds on time and diversion of funds for other purposes.

Underutilisation of funds under various heads like UGC, NCERT, etc.

Neglect of Research activities in NCERT.

Undue delay in making the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) functional.

2.1   The Committee, then, took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 113th Report of the Committee on Technical Education relating to Department. of Secondary and Higher Education and identified the following points/ issues for clarifications of the Department:

Emphasis on increase in number of students in Govt. Engineering colleges than Private Engineering Colleges to enable poor students to get engineering education.

Staffing pattern of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). Presently, most of the Manpower is on deputation.

General complaints regarding recognition of Private Institutions not fulfilling the requisite standard.

Uniformity in educational qualifications prescribed for various technical courses like Engineering, Architecture, Pharmacy etc.

2.2   The Committee, then, took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 114th Report of the Committee on Implementation of Elementary Education Schemes relating to Department. of Elementary Education and Literacy. The Committee was of the view that the Education Secretaries of some of the states be heard by it in respect of implementation of various elementary education schemes in their respective states.

2.3   The Committee, then, took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 121st Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants for 2002-2003 relating to Department of Women and Child Development and identified the following points/issues for clarifications of the Department:

Status regarding increase in the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi Helpers.

Non-availability of proper structure/building for running Anganwadi Centres.

Review of the Schemes of Indira Mahila Yojana and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh in view of the general impression that these Schemes are not achieving their objectives of economic empowerment of poor women.

Utility of Short Stay Homes.

2.4   The Committee was also of the view that it should visit the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala to have on-the-spot study of the implementation of the various schemes/ programmes related to women.

2.5   The Committee, then, took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 122nd Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants for 2002-2003 relating to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and identified the following points/issues for clarifications of the Department:

Non-adherence of instructions regarding associating the MPs with the activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).

Under-utilisation of funds under National Service Scheme (NSS).

Shrinking of activities under National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).

Utilisation and maintenance of stadia after International events.

3.   The Committee, then, adjourned at 12.30 P.M. for lunch and then again adjourned at 4.30 P.M. to meet again at 2.00 P.M. on Tuesday, the 21st January, 2003.

XI

ELEVENTH MEETING

          The Committee met at 3.00 P.M. on Monday, the 7th April, 2003 in Committee Room `A`, First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Dr. Manda Jagannath   ——   *in the Chair*

MEMBERS   PRESENT

          RAJYA SABHA

Dr. Akhilesh Das

Shri B.P. Apte

Shri Bachani Lekhraj

Prof. R.B.S. Varma

Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik

Shri Lalhmingliana

Smt. Chandra Kala Pandey

Smt. Vanga Geetha

LOK SABHA

Shri Ram Rati Bind

Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria

Shri Baliram Kashyap

Shri A.F. Golam Osmani

Shri S.B.P.B.K.Satyanarayana Rao

Dr. N. Venkataswamy

SECRETARIAT

Shri H.K. Chanana, Joint Secretary

Shri N.K. Singh, Joint Director

Shri C.B. Rai, Under Secretary

Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer

Smt. Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

2.   In the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Manda Jagannath was voted to the Chair.

3.   At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee. The Committee, then, took up consideration of the following Reports:

One Hundred twenty-fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Health;

One Hundred twenty-sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred seventeenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Family Welfare;

One Hundred twenty-seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred eighteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

One Hundred twenty-eighth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred-nineteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy;

One Hundred twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the

recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred twentieth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Secondary and Higher Education;
One Hundred thirtieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred twenty-first Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Women and Child Development;
One Hundred thirty-first Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred twenty-second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports;
One Hundred thirty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred fourteenth Report of the Committee on Implementation of Elementary Education Schemes;
One Hundred thirty-third Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred twelfth Report of the Committee on Medical Education; and
One Hundred thirty-fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred thirteenth Report of the Committee on Technical Education.
4.   After some discussion, the Committee adopted the above reports. The Committee also decided that these Report may be presented to Rajya Sabha and /laid in Lok Sabha on the 10th April, 2003. The Committee, in this connection, authorized the Chairman of the Committee and in his absence Prof. R.B.S. Varma and Smt. Chandra Kala Pandey to present the Reports in the Rajya Sabha and Dr. M. Jagannath and in his absence Shri Ramdas Rupala Gavit to lay the same in the Lok Sabha.
5.   The Committee then adjourned at 3.30 P.M.