

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

HUNDRED FIFTIETH REPORTS

ON

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2004-2005 (DEMAND NO. 58) OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER
EDUCATION
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 20TH AUGUST, 2004)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 20TH AUGUST, 2004)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

AUGUST, 2004/BHADRAPADA, 1926 (SAKA)

E.mail: rsc-hrd@sansad.nic.in
Website: <http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>

CONTENTS

1. [COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE](#)
2. [PREFACE](#)
3. [REPORT](#)
4. [OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE](#)
5. [MINUTES](#)

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(2004)

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi----*Chairman*

MEMBERS

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Eduardo Faleiro
3. Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah
4. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
5. Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey
6. Shri S. Anbalagan

7. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
8. Shrimati Vanga Geetha
9. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary
10. Shri Anil Dhirubhai Ambani

LOK SABHA

11. Shri Basudeb Barman
12. Shri Hari Sinh Chavda
13. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
14. Shri R.L. Jalappa
15. Shri Ramswarup Koli
16. Shri Manjunath Kunnur
17. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
18. Shri Manoj Kumar
19. Shri Babu Lal Marandi
20. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
21. Shri Krishna Murari Moghe
22. Mohd. Mukim
23. Shri Tukaram R. Patil
24. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
25. Shri M. Rajamohan Reddy
26. Shri Tufani Saroj
27. Shrimati P. Satheedevi
28. Shri A.R. Shaheen
29. Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar
30. Shri K. Virupaxappa
31. Shri Devendra Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shri N.C. Joshi, Additional Secretary
Shrimati Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Joint Director
Shri J. Sundriyal, Under Secretary
Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer
Shrimati Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

PREFACE

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 Hundred Fiftieth Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (Demand No. 58) of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2004-05.

2. The Committee considered the various documents and relevant papers received from the Department and also heard the Secretary and other Officials of that Department on the said Demands for Grants in its meeting held on 12th August, 2004.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on the 17th August 2004.

NEW DELHI;
August 17, 2004
Bhadrpada 26, 1926 (Saka)

VAYALAR RAVI
Chairman
Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Human Resource Development.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The essence of education is something to marvel at. The education adds to the personality of a man like fragrance to a rose. An educated mind is a treasure of liberty, scientific temper and progressive outlook. Its contribution to the society and the nation is immense. In fact, the bedrock of a strong nation is laid and the edifices built only by an educated society.

1.2 The system of education in India has broadly been divided in two categories: elementary education and secondary and higher education. It has been observed over the years that new initiatives are being taken to strengthen school education. Programmes like National Open School (renamed National Institute of Open Schooling) are being strengthened to reach out more and more children in distant areas, National Council of Educational Research and Training, a premier body, is playing an active role in providing resource support in the areas of education research and training at school level. The Kendriya as well as Navodaya Vidyalayas have been set up with the objective of providing a progressive and affordable school education in the country.

1.3 Secondary education has over the years taken great strides. There has been an increase in the enrolment of students at secondary, senior secondary and higher stage of education. In fact, the nation is on the threshold of becoming a knowledge powerhouse and our efforts should be to ensure that this momentum is not lost. However, it is of prime importance that Gandhiji's mantra of "unto the last" is not forgotten. Our success lies in our ability to take education to our villages and backward area where real India lives. That, in fact, has to be litmus test for success/failure of our schemes/programmes.

II. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

2.1 During the Tenth Plan, the approved outlay for Secondary and Higher Education is Rs. 13,825.00 crore. The Planning Commission had assured to give due priority to the Education Sector as soon as the funds were available through disinvestment. During 2003-04, the Plan outlay (BE) has been fixed at Rs. 2124.15 crore and the Non-Plan allocation at Rs. 2832.40 crore. However, instead of providing additional funds to the Department, the BE allocation was reduced at RE stage by Rs. 124.00 crore. These allocations, however, have seen a slight increase in the current financial year, as BE allocation for 2004-05 has been pegged at Rs. 2224.15 crore under Plan, while the Non Plan allocation for 2004-05 has been fixed at Rs. 2833.24 crore.

2.2 The Committee was informed that state funding of the education sector had been inadequate and the desired six per cent of the national income could not be set apart for education. The Department had decided to constitute the 'Bharat Shiksha Kosh' in January 2003 for mobilizing extra-budgetary resources by receiving donations/contributions/endowments from individuals and corporates, central and state Governments, NRIs and People of Indian Origin (PIO) in order to fill in the gap between actual requirement and the available budgetary support. **However, the contribution of only Rs. 1700 to the Kosh so far, suggests that the Kosh has failed miserably and the Department needs to revisit the whole idea and devise some efficacious plan to muster resources for education from sources other than the Government.**

2.3 The Committee notes that recently introduced 2 per cent education cess would pool significant resources for education sector but these measures are temporary and could not continue for all times. **The Committee strongly recommends that the Government should increase the budgetary allocation and it desires that the ideal of allocating six per cent of the GDP for education must be tried to be achieved.**

2.4 The Committee has observed that substantial funds under different heads, are lying with State Governments/NGOs and Utilization Certificates are not forthcoming from them for years together. **The Committee does not know whether these funds have been utilized at all. In fact, unspent balances and slow pace of expenditure has been an important factor in the reduced allocation in important schemes like National Open Schooling System, ICT in schools, Quality Improvement in Schools, Access and equity, Vocationalisation of Education, IGNOU, Community Polytechnics, IIMs, AICTE, NCERT, MODROB, Technical education etc.**

2.5 The Committee finds that this does not give a happy picture of Secondary and Higher Education in our country. It appears that our schemes for higher education were not suffering due to lack of resources but due to non-utilization of the available resources. This does not augur well for the future of educational development in our country. The higher education is at a critical stage today facing so many challenges from within and outside. It has to withstand the forces unleashed by the process of globalization. Our students have proved that given the right kind of support, they can excel in any area. In such a scenario, any kind of slackness in this area would be detrimental to our march on progress. With these sentiments, the Committee urges upon the Department to rise to occasion, see the challenges and act in time so that our coming generation did not blame us. While analyzing this scenario, Committee feels that States have also to play a more responsible role in effective coordination with Centre.

III. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

3.1 The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an apex organization to assist and advise the Central and the State Governments on academic matters related to school education. It provides academic and technical support for qualitative improvement of school education through its constituents organization located at various places

3.2 The Committee was informed that the new initiatives undertaken by the NCERT included instructional materials for different subjects at all stages of school education; launching of International Diploma course in Guidance and Counselling, Seventh All India Survey of School Education; Sixth Survey of Educational Researches; Scheme of School Based Assessment in DM Schools; Achievement Surveys at the end of Primary and Upper Primary stages, developing a 'Centre for Popularization of Science Park, Energy Park and 'Science Club' and National Consultation on Value Education.

3.3 The Committee notes with concern that NCERT has not achieved the physical targets fixed for the Ninth Plan. Against 2116 programmes to be achieved during the Ninth Plan, only 1522 programmes could be completed. Similarly, laxity is also noticed in the utilization of funds. The Committees is surprised to note that only 78 per cent of the total funds were utilized during the Ninth Plan. Still the Department has always sought an increase in allocation for NCERT during every year of the Plan. This demand could carry the conviction provided the NCERT had been able to utilize the funds allocated to it. The Committee, therefore, would like the NCERT to ensure that the funds allocated to it are utilized in future.

3.4 The Committee notes that during financial year 2003-04, Plan allocation of NCERT was increased by Rs. 4.00 crore to complete some additional work relating to modernization of laboratories and special repairs work at Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs) and work relating to 7th All India Educational Survey. The Department justified the increase on the ground that appropriate provision could not be made at BE stage, which was made available at RE stage.

3.5 The Committee has been further informed that during the financial year 2004-05, NCERT will undertake construction of building for PSSCIVE, Bhopal and NERIE, Shillong. The allocation of Rs. 19.00 crore under Plan shall be sufficient for the purpose. **The Committee feels that the construction of these buildings particularly NERIE, have been considerably delayed. Such delay tends to increase the cost of projects. The Committee hopes that this year, construction of these buildings would be completed and allocations would be utilized optimally, failing which the responsibility of delay would have to be fixed.**

IV. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING

4.1 The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an autonomous organization of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education which has emerged as the biggest such system in the world. Currently, it has about nine lakh students on roll at the Secondary and Senior Secondary stages. During the last five years, more than five lakh students have passed NIOS examinations. It has set up a network of about 2500 Study Centres for programme delivery through open learning and distance education mode. Besides its Study Centres in India, the NIOS has also set up Study Centres in UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Nepal, and Canada. NIOS has been able to provide opportunities for continuing education to those who have missed opportunities to complete school education and developmental education through courses and programmes of general education, life enrichment and vocational education from primary to pre-degree level.

4.2 The Committee notes that there was a reduction in the allocation for National Institute of Open Schooling during 2003-04 from Rs. 15.00 crore at BE stage to Rs. 7.00 crore at RE stage, basically due to financial constraints. The Committee is happy to know that the Institute had sufficient funds in its own corpus to run its regular programmes. Shortage of funds not being a problem, the Institute should not, shy away from effectively carrying out its mandate on the ground of scarce resources.

4.3 The Committee notes that during 2002-03 there were only 22321 enrolments in vocational courses, whereas nine lakh students are on roll at the Secondary and Senior Secondary stages. The number with NIOS is certainly less. The situation demands remedy in face of the shrinking job opportunities and higher education being available to limited number. In this situation, the vocational courses were one of best alternatives to keep today's youth in good stead. The Committee strongly feels that National Institute of Open Schooling should promote its vocational courses more vigorously and try to increase the enrolment of students in vocational courses. The Committee would also like the National Institute of Open Schooling to endeavour and get feedback from the passed out certified candidates about the status of their

employment and engagement in gainful occupations.

4.4 **The Committee takes note of the fact that National Institute of Open schooling has set up nine Rural Community Workshops, which in its view is not sufficient. The Committee feels that more such workshops need to be opened across the country.**

4.5 The Committee is pleased to learn that the National Institute of Open Schooling was aimed at making the student entrepreneurs and job creators and not simply job seekers. The thrust of its future vocational programmes would be towards diversifying the educational opportunities and providing an alternative channel to those who are talented and have an enterprising disposition. **The Committee finds the objectives of the Institute not only laudable but timely as well. NIOS, therefore, should have ties with banks and financial institutions for helping its students becoming entrepreneurs and creators of jobs. The Committee would also like the National Institute of Open Schooling to develop a mechanism for discovering students with enterprising disposition in the process of providing alternative channel to the talented ones.**

4.6 **The Committee is disappointed over the unspent balances of Rs. 66.49 lakhs, Rs. 80.54 lakhs and Rs. 118.45 lakhs for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. This trend of non-utilization shows that the work for which the funds were provided could either not be taken up or not completed in time. The Committee would like the Department to ensure that this does not happen again.**

V. KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

5.1 The objectives of the Kendriya Vidyalayas are to pursue excellence and setting pace in the field of education and to develop the spirit of national integration and create a sense of Indianess amongst the children.

5.2 Kendriya Vidyalayas are established at places having sizeable concentration of transferable Central Government employees including Defence personnel and priority in admissions is also given in such Vidyalayas to the children of transferable Central Government Employees. Kendriya Vidyalayas are also established in the premises of Government of India, Public Sector Undertakings and Institutions of higher learning who agree to meet the entire recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

5.3 The Committee notes that at the beginning of 2003-2004, there were 843 Kendriya Vidyalayas. During the current year, there is likely-hood of adding 100 New Vidyalayas, out of which 65 Vidyalayas had already been sanctioned. Six KVs were closed. At present there are 902 Kendriya Vidyalayas. The Committee further notes that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had planned to sanction 20 school buildings and staff quarters in different Kendriya Vidyalayas during 2003-04, out of which only six new buildings and 11 units of staff quarters could be sanctioned. At present 531 Vidyalayas were functioning in permanent buildings and the construction work of 80 Vidyalayas was in progress. Building plans are under approval for another 38 Vidyalayas.

5.4 The Committee is surprised to note that out of 902 Vidyalayas, 371 were not functioning in permanent buildings. The Committee finds this situation highly undesirable and would expect the Department to complete the construction of permanent buildings within a definite time frame. The Department of Secondary and Higher Education should approach the Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance to get one time grant for this purpose.

5.5 The Committee notes that there are vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalayas. The Sanghathan was processing to fill up these vacancies. The Committee is not convinced with the argument that vacancies could not be filled due to absence of its regular Commissioner for last six months. These vacancies, Committee feels, might have been accumulated over a long duration. If admissions can go on, why not recruitment of teachers? It appears that, there is no institutionalized mechanism for recruiting the teachers in KVS. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should ensure filling of vacancies on priority basis so that studies were not affected adversely. There should be a permanent machinery for recruiting teachers. As regards transfers in KVs, the Committee was informed that a new policy for this purpose has been put in place. The Committee hopes that it would be implemented with human face.

5.6 Under the scheme of Model Kendriya Vidyalayas, 448 Vidyalayas have been converted till 31.03.2001. Such Vidyalayas have been identified to develop them to provide quality education and pace setting centers. These Vidyalayas had been sanctioned funds for Educational Technology, Jr. Science Lab, furniture and to provide additional infrastructural facilities for sports, games, as well as co-curricular activities. The Committee was informed that no more KVs could be converted into Model KV due to funds not received from the Ministry **The Committee underlines the need for more funds to the KVs for this purpose as KVs have evolved as centres of quality education for those who could not afford it.**

5.7 **The Committee appreciates the introduction of Computer Literacy Programme by KVS, but is equally skeptical about the efficacy of the programme unless adequate number of computers were given to each KV in view of the high number of students. The Committee is of the opinion that number of computers to be given to**

the schools should have a ratio with the number of students. The KVS is advised to explore the possibilities for getting help from other avenues including the Ministry of Information and Technology for this purpose.

5.8 The Committee observes that KVs have emerged as an excellent centre of good and affordable education and have been found as a suitable alternative to public schools. The Committee is happy to learn that performance of KVs in X and XII CBSE exams, has been improving every year and this year, their pass percentage in Delhi was, in fact, better than many of the reputed public schools in the city. Kendriya Vidyalayas are maintaining uniform standards of good education across the nation and have become as symbols of national integration. The Committee has been informed that there was an overwhelming demand of opening KVs from different parts of the country including Jammu and Kashmir. Keeping in view the rising popularity and demand of the KVs, the Committee would like the Department to revisit the existing rule/guidelines to open the KVs so that at least one was established in each of the 244 districts which still do not have a KV.

5.9 The Committee notes that allocation for the KVs was increased by Rs. 18 crore at RE stage in 2003-04, in view of the progress of on-going works and the new buildings sanctioned during 2003-04. There is, however, no increase in allocation for the year 2004-05. Although the Department had projected a higher amount, but the allocation it got indicates that the case could not be put effectively. The Committee, in view of its recommendation to expand this scheme, urges upon the Government to provide more funds in coming years so that more and more new KVs would be opened and infrastructure improved in the existing ones.

VI. NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI

6.1 The broad objectives of Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme are to establish one Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district of the country to provide good quality modern education to the talented children predominantly from rural areas, without regard to their family's socio-economic conditions and to promote National Integration.

6.2 The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme started with 2 JNVs in 1986 with the target of sanctioning one Navodaya Vidyalaya in each districts in the country. Only 468 Vidyalayas could be sanctioned till the end of Ninth Plan Period (*i.e.* upto 31.3.2002). As in September 2003, 494 districts had been covered under 34 States/UTs in the country except Tamil Nadu which has not so far opted the Scheme so far.

6.3 The percentage coverage of number of States/UTs with reference to total number of districts in 34 states/UTs as on September 2003, is as under:----

Percentage	Number Of States / UTs	Number Of Districts
100%	14	128
90-99%	6	200
80-89%	4	74
70-79%	6	66
50-69%	2	20
22%	2	6
TOTAL :	34	494

6.4 The Committee has been informed that the Samiti had been constantly pursuing the matter with the concerned State Governments at appropriate level for sending suitable proposals for the establishment of JNVs in uncovered districts as well. **The Committee desires the Samiti to pursue the matter with those States with less coverage more vigorously.**

6.5 The Committee notes that despite the continuous progress in the completion of civil works, the pace of construction work is as not upto the mark. It, therefore, had led to accumulation of pending works since new targets are to be fixed every year. The Committee notes that an additional amount of Rs. 79.56 crore was released at RE stage mainly to meet the committed expenditure for completion of the construction of buildings which were in progress during the year. **The Committee is surprised that despite increased allocation, 56 construction works were still to be completed. The Committee further notes with concern that against a target to establish 94 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas during Ninth Plan, only 80 could be established,**

and only 248 Vidyalaya buildings could be constructed against the target of 275. The Committee is of the view that the Samiti should ensure that all the projections made during a financial year were completed in that very year.

6.6 The Committee has learnt that out of 508 sanctioned Vidyalayas only 474 are fully functional, as on 31.3.2004. For another 10 Vidyalayas the entrance examination has been conducted and the admission was in progress. The rest of the Vidyalayas could not be made functional due to non-availability of suitable temporary accommodation by the concerned States. **That the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti had failed to find suitable temporary accommodation for so many Vidyalayas, indicates lack of foresight and sincerity on the part of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. The Committee recommends that efforts be made to get suitable temporary accommodation for all the Navodaya Vidyalayas and permanent accommodation for the remaining Navodaya Vidyalayas, including the 100 proposed Vidyalayas for Tenth plan, be constructed by the end of the Tenth Plan.**

6.7 **The availability of hostel accommodation in these schools, the Committee was informed are inadequate and the upkeep, facilities as well as food quality were not upto the mark. Navodaya Vidyalaya being fully residential, these aspects need to be looked into urgently by the Department.**

VII. INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR THE DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)

7.1 The Scheme provides educational opportunities for disabled children in common schools to facilitate their integration and ultimate retention in the general school system. The scheme is being implemented through the Education Departments of State Governments and UT Administrations as well as through Non-Governmental Organisations. Under the Scheme, 100% assistance is being provided. The Scheme is presently being implemented in 31 States and UTs and so far approximately 85,000 schools had covered about 2 lakh special children.

7.2 **The Committee notes that there were other projects and programmes like SSA, District Elementary Education Plan being run by the Department of Elementary Education, which also partially aim for the education of children with special needs. The Committee does not know if there was coordination between the two schemes. It feels that a comprehensive and single programme/scheme would be more effective and economical.**

7.3 **The Committee notes certain shortcomings such as inadequate attention being given to the scheme by the States/UTs, acute shortage of trained special/resource teachers, shortage of specialized educational aids and assistive devices, general schools are not geared to cater to the needs of Disabled Children, lack of community awareness regarding schemes/facilities available for Disabled Children. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department should take fresh initiatives and hold detailed consultations with States/UTs. The Department may also invite NGOs to directly come forward with their proposals for implementing this scheme. The Committee fails to understand that despite there being acute shortage of trained teachers as well as specialized educational aids and assistive devices, fund released for 2003-04 (i.e. Rs. 38.50 crore) could not be utilized fully.**

7.4 The Committee learnt that the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Act 1995 places a statutory responsibility on the Government to ensure that every disabled child has access to free education in an appropriate environment till the age of 18 years. The Department was informed that 3% of the education sector outlay should be utilized for the direct benefit of disabled children. **The Committee here points out that approved outlay for Department of Secondary and Higher Education for the Tenth Plan period is Rs. 13825.00 crore. The desired 3 percent of this outlay comes down to Rs. 414.75 crore. Against which the actual allocation for IEOC for Tenth Plan is Rs. 200.00 crore, which is less than half of the allocation made for the scheme.**

The Committee here desired to mention approved outlay for Department of Secondary and Higher Education for the Tenth Plan period is Rs. 13825.00 crore. The desired 3% of this outlay comes down to Rs. 414.75 crore. Whenever, the actual allocation for the IEOC for Tenth plan period is Rs. 200.00 crore,

7.5 **The Committee was informed that under SSA, more than 12.25 lakh disabled children were placed in regular schools. The Committee feels it to be tremendous achievement in the face of several constraints faced by the scheme. It recommends that there should be an independent source of feedback and its scheme should be got evaluated by an independent agency.**

7.6 **The Committee recommends for proportionate increase in allocation for this Scheme for Tenth Plan period to take care of all the shortages and obstacles being faced for its effective implementation.**

VIII. QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS

8.1 The Quality Improvement in Schools introduced during the Tenth Plan Period covers the following existing schemes of the Department.

- 1 **Improvement of Science Education in Schools**
- 1 **Environmental Orientation to School Education**
- 1 **Promotion of Yoga in Schools**
- 1 **International Science Olympiads**
- 1 **National Population Education Project**

8.2 The Committee learns that the plan allocation in 2003-2004 for the scheme of Quality Improvement in Schools was drastically reduced from Rs. 26.00 crore to Rs. 7.80 crore at RE stage. Reason given was the low expenditure as well as non-receipt of feasible proposals from the State Governments, UTs and NGOs. The Committee is of the opinion that non-receipt of proposals means two things - proposals not received at all or proposals received but not found feasible. In either sense, there has to be some reasons behind it. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Department should try to find out the reasons and help the States/UTs prepare and send viable proposals in time. The Committee would like the Department to give proper publicity to the Scheme and identify some good/reputed voluntary associations as nodal agencies for mobilization of NGOs to implement the Scheme.

8.3 The Committee notes that all the five schemes mentioned above under this programme are very good schemes with noble aims to be achieved. But the non-utilization of funds for this scheme last year presents a dismal picture. The Committee is surprised to see that there were no physical targets fixed for the schemes during the Ninth Plan. This, the Committee feels, is a deplorable situation. The Committee is of the opinion that such a performance is the result of lack of foresight, commitment and accountability in the Department, as far this scheme is concerned. The Committee feels that the Department should have regular monitoring of this scheme.

IX. ACCESS AND EQUITY

9.1 Programme for Access with Equity in Schools has two components (i) Strengthening of Boarding and hostel facilities for girls, (ii) setting up and upgrading of schools in partnership with reputed NGOs/Trusts/Societies/State Govts. by providing one time grant. Under the Scheme for Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities for Girl Students from Class VI to XII financial assistance is being given @ Rs. 10,000/- per boarder per annum as recurring expenditure and Rs. 3,000/- per boarder as non-recurring expenditure to the eligible voluntary organisations. Preference in providing assistance is given to the organisations having girl Hostels/Boarding Houses located in educationally backward districts, particularly those predominantly inhabited by SCs/STs and educationally backward minorities.

9.2 A provision of Rs. 305.00 crore has been made for the 10th Plan. During 2002-03, funds amounting to Rs. 17.92 crore against revised estimate of Rs. 18.00 crore were released to 252 (147 proposals for continuation grant and 105 fresh proposals) NGOs for implementation of existing component of Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities for Girl Students of Secondary Education and Higher Secondary Schools under the Scheme. 18,000 girl boarders were benefited during the year 2002-03

9.3 The Committee was informed that the Plan allocation under the Scheme of "Access with Equity" was reduced to Rs. 16.51 crore from Rs. 20.00 crore because of non- consideration of fresh proposals by the Grants in-aid Committee (GIAC). The enhancement to Rs. 30.00 crore in the fiscal 2004-05 has been made for 'construction of schools', which is an important component under the Scheme.

9.4 The Committee is not happy to see that even the reduced allocation could not be utilized and, in fact, the expenditure figures for 2003-04 stand at Rs. 7.00 crore, which is abysmally low. The Committee notes that the amount released to the NGOs to run their Girls Hostel is not based on a uniform pattern. The amount released to the NGOs is not the same, despite there being equal number of boarders in different hostels. Sometimes large numbers of NGOs situated in a particular area/State have been released funds e.g. Jajpur in Orissa in 2003-04. The Committee believes that there should be guidelines laid down for this purpose. If not, it should be done as soon as possible. Amount sanctioned, should not appear to be discriminatory. The Committee also emphasizes the need for putting an effective monitoring mechanism in place for the scheme and also for physical verification of the hostels and the inmates with the help of state authorities.

9.5 The Committee welcomes the setting up and upgrading of schools component of the Scheme and hopes that the Department would be able to find reputed NGOs with right proposals for one-time grant under

the Scheme and will be able to spend the allocation optimally.

X. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

10.1 The Government through this scheme intends to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural students and provide equal opportunities to all.

10.2 The Committee notes that during 2003-04, no financial assistance had been released under the 'Information Communication Technology in Schools' scheme. Reason given was that the scheme was yet to be approved by the competent authority. **The Committee is not convinced to see the manner in which this scheme is being implemented. India has become the leading supplier of ICT experts to all the developed nations. The country is on its way to becoming IT super power. Such an indifferent attitude, the Committee is sure, the nation can ill-afford at this juncture. The Committee, therefore, recommends that every effort be made to remove the obstacles in implementing this scheme with total vigour.**

10.3 The Committee notes that State Institutes of Educational Technology (SIETs) are given financial assistance for producing programmes for school sector telecast/broadcast through Doordarshan and Akashvani. It is, however, noticed that except for Orissa State Institute of Educational Technology (SIET), all the State Institutes of Educational Technology's are producing video programmes overwhelmingly in comparison to audio programme. **The Committee recommends that more audio programmes be produced as the reach of Akashvani is wider than Doordarshan as it reaches even the remotest part of the nation.**

10.4 **The Committee is not satisfied on account of unspent balances, as against BE of Rs. 111 crore for 2003-04 and its drastic reduction in RE at Rs. 25 crore, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 9 crore which is a humble 36 per cent. The Committee recommends that tendency of under-utilization of funds be curbed and all necessary steps taken for the effective implementation of the scheme. The Committee recommends that sincere efforts be made to utilize the entire allocation for 2004-05 so that the pending works are completed in time to avoid time-cost overrun.**

XI. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

11.1 The University Grants Commission aims at promotion and co-ordination of University education, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in the Universities. It serves as a coordinating body between the union and the State Govts. and the Institutions of higher learning. Besides the role of giving grants to Universities and Colleges, it also advises Central and State Governments on the measures necessary for the development of Higher Education. The five broad sectors of the Tenth Plan are:

- 1 General development of universities and colleges (219.00 crores)
- 1 Enhancing access and equity (29.50 crores)
- 1 Promotion of relevant education (70.00 crores)
- 1 Quality and excellence (99.25 crores)
- 1 Strengthening of research (99.00 crores)

11.2 Out of the plan budget estimate for the first year of the Tenth Plan, ten per cent of the allocation under each sector/scheme is to be allocated to Universities and Colleges, located in North Eastern Region.

11.3 During Tenth Plan period, the emphasis and focus would be on development of universities and colleges by making available infrastructural facilities, quality and excellence, access and equity with quality etc. During the reporting year, various UGC Visiting Committees reviewed the implementation of various higher programmes during Ninth Plan and assessing the financial requirements for Tenth Plan period. Based on the recommendations of these Committees, Plan allocation has been made to the Universities.

11.4 The Higher Education system has seen a thirteen-fold increase in the number of universities and twenty-six fold increase in the number of Colleges since Independence. There are now 188 Universities, 86 Deemed Universities, five Institutions established through State and Central legislation, 11 Institutes of National Importance established through Central legislation, nearly 15,343 colleges including around 1650 women colleges.

11.5 At the beginning of the year 2003-04, the total number of students enrolled in the formal system of education in universities and colleges was been 92.28 lakhs, comprising of 12.01 lakhs in university departments and 80.27 lakhs in the affiliated colleges.

11.6 Eighty three per cent of the total enrolment was concentrated in the three faculties of Arts (46.13), Science

(19.88) and Commerce (17.87) while remaining 17 per cent was in the professional subjects. Enrolment at the degree level has been 89.16 per cent (78.63 lakhs), at the P.G. level - 9.17 per cent (8.16 lakhs) and the remaining at the research and diploma/certificate levels.

11.7 The Commission has been providing financial support to college teachers, the UGC awarded research associates, Vice-Chancellors and Commission Members for presenting their research papers in international conferences abroad. For college teachers and research associates, assistance is limited to 50 per cent of the admissible expenditure while cent per cent assistance is being provided to Vice-Chancellors and Commission Members and also the assistance has been extended to the teachers of the institutions of national importance. The cent per cent assistance is also being given to teachers and others in exceptional meritorious cases with the rider that the awardee shall be eligible to reapply for another Travel Grant only after a period of six years. During 2002-03 the approval of the UGC was given to 154 college teachers and three Vice-Chancellors based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee and also an amount of Rs. 71.05 lakhs was released under the scheme. **The Committee is of the view that international conferences provided the much-needed exposure, therefore, financial constraints should not come in the way for visits to international conferences.**

XII. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

12.1 The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established in September 1985 by an Act of Parliament for the introduction and promotion of the Open University and Distance Education system in the country and for coordination and determination of standard in such system. The University has set up nine schools in various disciplines.

12.2 The Committee notes that IGNOU follows a well-organised plan of course development to ensure the quality of study material. Once programmes are developed and launched, the Schools are vested with the responsibility of maintenance of the said programmes/courses. In addition to the course material, the University has brought out a number of publications including programme guidance, student assignments, brochure, information packages etc.

12.3 Looking at the perceived need to create Open Distance Learning opportunities in areas of Social and economic relevance to modern India, the University has proposed to add two new Schools *i.e.*

(i) School of Agriculture and Extension (ii) School of Legal Studies. Spot evaluation of answer scripts of Programmes/Courses with small enrolment introduced on pilot basis during the year has been successful.

12.4 The Committee notes that the BE 2003-04 under Plan for Indira Gandhi National Open University was Rs. 67.00 crores, which was reduced to Rs. 20.00 crores at the RE stage. Reason given for this was the low pace of expenditure and 'other considerations'. Another reason given was that the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee for the proposal for continuation of grant to Indira Gandhi National Open University and Open Learning System during the Tenth Plan was awaited. The Committee was given to understand that the Expenditure Finance Committee, in its meeting held on 16.1.2004, has approved the above proposal. The Committee also notes that the total Tenth Plan projection for IGNOU is Rs. 510.00 crores out of which, as per EFC approval, Government has to release Rs. 380.00 crores and the rest will be met by Indira Gandhi National Open University from its internal resources. In view of the Tenth Plan allocation, BE 2004-2005 for IGNOU has been retained at the level of BE 2003-04 *i.e.* Rs. 67.00 crores. The Committee expresses its reservations about the slow pace of expenditure by the IGNOU. While giving reasons for this, Department had mentioned, "*and other considerations*". Such type of evasive reply clearly indicates that Department wants to hide certain facts. The Committee feels that such vague replies to its queries should be avoided and point to point precise replies given.

XIII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS

13.1 Under the existing norms of the scheme, a one time Non-recurring Grants-in-aid of Rs. 7.25 lakh and annual Recurring Grants-in-aid to a maximum of Rs. 7.00 lakh is released to the selected AICTE approved Diploma Level Institution, called as Community Polytechnics which are mandated to undertake rural/community development activities in its proximity through the application of science and technology making use of infrastructure available in polytechnics.

13.2 The Committee notes that the Plan allocation of Rs. 70.00 crore during the year 2003-04 for Scheme of Community Polytechnics was proposed keeping in mind the restructuring of Scheme of Community Polytechnics during the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, the same could not be finalised which resulted in the reduction of the budgetary provisions from Rs. 70.00 crore to Rs. 20.00 crore. The Committee deplores that three years have already gone into the Tenth Plan and the Department was yet to finalise the restructuring of the Scheme. Looking at the ambit of this scheme *i.e.* rural youth, this kind of indifferent attitude would do more harm than good in long run.

XIV. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES

14.1 The National Council of Rural Institutes is a registered autonomous society fully funded by the Central

Government. Its main aims and objectives are to promote rural higher education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education so as to take up challenges of micro-planning for transformation of rural areas as envisaged in National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986.

14.2 The Committee notes that though the National Council of Rural Institutes was established in October, 1995, it could not be made fully operational mainly due to lack of regular staff. The Council has been functioning only by engaging consultants. In order to strengthen the Council and its continuation during Tenth Plan, the Standing Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (S & HE), in its meeting held on 23.9.2003, has approved an outlay of Rs. 9.15 crore and has also recommended the creation of 15 posts, including the posts of Chairman and Member-Secretary. This Ministry has already taken up the proposal with the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for the creation of these 15 posts which is under process. A Cabinet Note for the creation of the post of Chairman, National Council of Rural Institutes had been submitted to the Cabinet which deferred its decision in its meeting held on 18.03.2003.

14.3 The Committee is of the opinion that the National Council of Rural Institutes has not become functional since 1995. There cannot be a better example of bureaucratic apathy and carelessness than this. The Committee strongly feels that Department should have made National Council of Rural Institutes functional by now. It, therefore, recommends that a time-bound action-plan for doing this should be put in place at the earliest.

XV. NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

15.1 The National Merit Scholarship Scheme has been framed for implementation in the Tenth Plan with the merger of two Centrally Sponsored Scholarship Plan Scheme *viz.* National Scholarship Scheme and Scheme of Scholarship at Secondary Stage. The two erstwhile schemes are being continued from the Ninth Plan on existing basis pending approval of revised scheme.

15.2 The objective of the new scheme is to support talented students and encourage them to excel academically in studies by giving recognition and financial assistance at post-matric level on State wise merit basis and also separately to talented and meritorious students in rural areas. This scheme is implemented through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The entire expenditure incurred by the States/UTs. is proposed to be met by the Government of India from the date of implementation of the revised scheme.

15.3 As in the previous year, in 2003-04 also 38,000 scholarships under National Scholarship Scheme and 43,000 scholarships under Talented Children Scheme have been announced. However, under the National Merit Scholarship Scheme the total number of scholarships awarded will be about 20,500 per year during 2004---07. Out of this about 10,750 scholarships per year during 2004---07 will be for talented students from rural areas.

15.4 The Committee has been informed that the Tenth Plan National Scholarship Scheme and the Scheme for Talented Children from Rural Areas are being revised and merged with the National Merit Scholarship Scheme. The BE of Rs. 8.00 crore was made in anticipation that the revised scheme with enhanced scholarship amount will be implemented from 2003-04. Since the approval has been delayed, the implementation of the revised scheme could not be done in the Xth Plan, the Scheme was continued on the existing basis. The outlay at the RE stage was therefore reduced to Rs. 1.00 crore.

15.5 The Committee takes a very serious note of the whole development and recommends that the Department needs to revisit the scheme for making it effective and ensure that procedural intricacies do not mar the academic efforts of deserving poor students.

XVI. PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHERS

16.1 The Committee notes that several private universities have been set up by some State legislatures within a short span of time which have opened their extension campuses all over the country. These universities, most of which are sub-standard do not take clearance from the regulatory bodies like UGC/AICTE etc. It is contended by them that there can be no regulation on them, if they are not taking any grants from the government or the UGC. The Committee feels that these arguments are not tenable. While these universities might have been set up legally under a State law, they are under the obligation to fulfill the guidelines laid down by the national regulatory bodies like UGC/AICTE etc. The Committee feels that it is well within the mandate of the UGC to intervene and it has rightly done so by asking the private universities to adhere to the provisions of University Grants Commission (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Self-Financing Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. The Committee appreciates the recent action taken by the

UGC under the existing regulations particularly in the State of Chhattisgarh, as a result of which, 34 universities not being able to fulfill the norms, have been denotified by the State Government. The Committee understands that UGC is still in the process of conducting inspections of private universities. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of the private universities found eligible by the UGC. The list of denotified universities as also the eligible ones should be widely publicised for the benefit of students at large. Merely, display on the website of UGC would not serve the purpose.

16.2 In view of this, the Committee recommends that the Department should make all out efforts for having required powers, legal and administrative in order to deal with the unprecedented situation firmly. Such a blatant commercialization of education should not be allowed to continue any further.

16.3 The Committee notes that large number of foreign universities are operating from India which are attracting students and these are charging huge money from them. Most of these are reported to be sub-standard. The University Grants Commission informed that as per the information received from Indian Missions in the home countries of these foreign universities, some of these were not approved accredited in their own countries. The Committee, therefore, would like the University Grants Commission to keep a strong vigil over such universities and ensure that only approved/accredited ones were allowed to operate in India. The Committee wants the Department to study the matter in detail and submit a note on this to the Committee.

16.4 The Committee is concerned at the existence of the fake universities in the country. It was argued that due to lighter penal provisions of Rs. 1000/- fine, the fake universities were getting away easily. The Committee recommends that every effort be taken, legal and administrative making it a criminal offence so as to deter/stop fake universities playing havoc with the future of the unsuspecting youth.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE

II. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

However, the contribution of only Rs. 1700 to the Kosh so far, suggests that the Kosh has failed miserably and the Department needs to revisit the whole idea and devise some efficacious plan to muster resources for education from sources other than the Government. (Para 2.2)

The Committee strongly recommends that the Government should increase the budgetary allocation and it desires that the ideal of allocating six per cent of the GDP for education must be tried to be achieved. (Para 2.3)

The Committee has observed that substantial funds under different heads, are lying with State Governments/NGOs and Utilization Certificates are not forthcoming from them for years together. The Committee does not know whether these funds have been utilized at all. In fact, unspent balances and slow pace of expenditure has been an important factor in the reduced allocation in important schemes like National Open Schooling System, ICT in schools, Quality Improvement in Schools, Access and equity, Vocationalisation of Education, IGNOU, Community Polytechnics, IIMs, AICTE, NCERT, MODROB, Technical education etc. (Para 2.4)

The Committee finds that this does not give a happy picture of Secondary and Higher Education in our country. It appears that our schemes for higher education were not suffering due to lack of resources but due to non-utilization of the available resources. This does not augur well for the future of educational development in our country. The higher education is at a critical stage today facing so many challenges from within and outside. It has to withstand the forces unleashed by the process of globalization. Our students have proved that given the right kind of support, they can excel in any area. In such a scenario, any kind of slackness in this area would be detrimental to our march on progress. With these sentiments, the Committee urges upon the Department to rise to occasion, see the challenges and act in time so that our coming generation did not blame us. While analyzing this scenario, Committee feels that States have also to play a more responsible role in effective coordination with Centre. (Para 2.6)

III. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

The Committee notes with concern that NCERT has not achieved the physical targets fixed for the Ninth Plan. Against 2116 programmes to be achieved during the Ninth Plan, only 1522 programmes could be completed. Similarly, laxity is also noticed in the utilization of funds. The Committee is surprised to note that only 78 per cent of the total funds were utilized during the Ninth Plan. Still the Department has always sought an increase in allocation

for NCERT during every year of the Plan. This demand could carry the conviction provided the NCERT had been able to utilize the funds allocated to it. The Committee, therefore, would like the NCERT to ensure that the funds allocated to it are utilized in future. (Para 3.3)

The Committee feels that the construction of these buildings particularly NERIE, have been considerably delayed. Such delay tends to increase the cost of projects. The Committee hopes that this year, construction of these buildings would be completed and allocations would be utilized optimally, failing which the responsibility of delay would have to be fixed. (Para 3.5)

IV. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING

The Committee notes that there was a reduction in the allocation for National Institute of Open Schooling during 2003-2004 from Rs. 15.00 crore at BE stage to Rs. 7.00 crore at RE stage, basically due to financial constraints. The Committee is happy to know that the Institute had sufficient funds in its own corpus to run its regular programmes. Shortage of funds not being a problem, the Institute should not, shy away from effectively carrying out its mandate on the ground of scarce resources. (Para 4.2)

The Committee notes that during 2002-2003 there were only 22321 enrolments in vocational courses, whereas nine lakh students are on roll at the Secondary and Senior Secondary stages. The number with NIOS is certainly less. The situation demands remedy in face of the shrinking job opportunities and higher education being available to limited number. In this situation, the vocational courses were one of best alternatives to keep today's youth in good stead. The Committee strongly feels that National Institute of Open Schooling should promote its vocational courses more vigorously and try to increase the enrolment of students in vocational courses. The Committee would also like the National Institute of Open Schooling to endeavour and get feedback from the passed out certified candidates about the status of their employment and engagement in gainful occupations. (Para 4.3)

The Committee takes note of the fact that National Institute of Open schooling has set up nine Rural Community Workshops, which in its view is not sufficient. The Committee feels that more such workshops need to be opened across the country. (Para 4.4)

The Committee finds the objectives of the Institute not only laudable but timely as well. NIOS, therefore, should have ties with banks and financial institutions for helping its students becoming entrepreneurs and creators of jobs. The Committee would also like the National Institute of Open Schooling to develop a mechanism for discovering students with enterprising disposition in the process of providing alternative channel to the talented ones. (Para 4.5)

The Committee is disappointed over the unspent balances of Rs. 66.49 lakhs, Rs. 80.54 lakhs and Rs. 118.45 lakhs for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. This trend of non-utilization shows that the work for which the funds were provided could either not be taken up or not completed in time. The Committee would like the Department to ensure that this does not happen again. (Para 4.6)

V. KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

The Committee is surprised to note that out of 902 Vidyalayas, 371 were not functioning in permanent buildings. The Committee finds this situation highly undesirable and would expect the Department to complete the construction of permanent buildings within a definite time-frame. The Department of Secondary and Higher Education should approach the Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance to get one-time grant for this purpose. (Para 5.4)

The Committee notes that there are vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalayas. The Sanghathan was processing to fill up these vacancies. The Committee is not convinced with the argument that vacancies could not be filled due to absence of its regular Commissioner for last six months. These vacancies, Committee feels, might have been accumulated over a long duration. If admissions can go on, why not recruitment of teachers? It appears that, there is no institutionalized mechanism for recruiting the teachers in KVS. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should ensure filling of vacancies on priority basis so that studies were not affected adversely. There should be a permanent machinery for recruiting teachers. As regards transfers in KVs, the Committee was informed that a new policy for this purpose has been put in place. The Committee hopes that it would be implemented with human face. (Para 5.5)

The Committee underlines the need for more funds to the KVs for this purpose as KVs have evolved as centres of quality education for those who could not afford it. (Para 5.6)

The Committee appreciates the introduction of Computer Literacy Programme by KVS, but is equally skeptical about the efficacy of the programme unless adequate number of computers were given to each KV in view of the high number of students. The Committee is of the opinion that number of computers to be given to the schools should have a ratio with the number of students. The KVS is advised to explore the possibilities for getting help from other avenues including the Ministry of Information and Technology for this purpose. (Para 5.7)

The Committee observes that KVs have emerged as an excellent centre of good and affordable education and have been found as a suitable alternative to public schools. The Committee is happy to learn that performance of KVs in X and XII CBSE exams, has been improving every year and this year, their pass percentage in Delhi was, in fact, better than many of the reputed public schools in the city. Kendriya Vidyalayas are maintaining uniform standards of good education across the nation and have become as symbols of national integration. The Committee has been informed that there was an overwhelming demand of opening KVs from different parts of the country including Jammu and Kashmir. Keeping in view the rising popularity and demand of the KVs, the Committee would like the Department to revisit the existing rule/guidelines to open the KVs so that at least one was established in each of the 244 districts which still do not have a KV. (Para 5.8)

Although the Department had projected a higher amount, but the allocation it got indicates that the case could not be put effectively. The Committee, in view of its recommendation to expand this scheme, urges upon the Government to provide more funds in coming years so that more and more new KVs would be opened and infrastructure improved in the existing ones. (Para 5.10)

VI. NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI

The Committee desires the Samiti to pursue the matter with those States with less coverage more vigorously. (Para 6.4)

The Committee is surprised that despite increased allocation, 56 construction works were still to be completed. The Committee further notes with concern that against a target to establish 94 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas during Ninth Plan, only 80 could be established, and only 248 Vidyalaya buildings could be constructed against the target of 275. The Committee is of the view that the Samiti should ensure that all the projections made during a financial year were completed in that very year. (Para 6.5)

That the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti had failed to find suitable temporary accommodation for so many Vidyalayas, indicates lack of foresight and sincerity on the part of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. The Committee recommends that efforts be made to get suitable temporary accommodation for all the Navodaya Vidyalayas and permanent accommodation for the remaining Navodaya Vidyalayas, including the 100 proposed Vidyalayas for Tenth plan, be constructed by the end of the Tenth Plan. (Para 6.6)

The availability of hostel accommodation in these schools, the Committee was informed are inadequate and the upkeep, facilities as well as food quality were not upto the mark. Navodaya Vidyalaya being fully residential, these aspects need to be looked into urgently by the Department. (Para 6.7)

VII. INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR THE DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)

The Committee notes that there were other projects and programmes like SSA, District Elementary Education Plan being run by the Department of Elementary Education, which also partially aim for the education of children with special needs. The Committee does not know if there was coordination between the two schemes. It feels that a comprehensive and single programme/scheme would be more effective and economical. (Para 7.2)

The Committee notes certain shortcomings such as inadequate attention being given to the scheme by the States/UTs, acute shortage of trained special/resource teachers, shortage of specialized educational aids and assistive devices, general schools are not geared to cater to the needs of Disabled Children, lack of community awareness regarding schemes/facilities available for Disabled Children. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department should take fresh initiatives and hold detailed consultations with States/UTs. The Department may also invite NGOs to directly come forward with their proposals for implementing this scheme. The Committee fails to understand that despite there being acute shortage of trained teachers as well as specialized educational aids and assistive devices, fund released for 2003-04 (*i.e.* Rs. 38.50 crore) could not be utilized fully. (Para 7.3)

The Committee here points out that approved outlay for Department of Secondary and Higher Education

for the Tenth Plan period is Rs. 13825.00 crore. The desired 3 percent of this outlay comes down to Rs. 414.75 crore. Against which the actual allocation for IEDC for Tenth Plan is Rs. 200.00 crore, which is less than half of the allocation made for the scheme.

(Para 7.4)

The Committee was informed that under SSA, more than 12.25 lakh disabled children were placed in regular schools. The Committee feels it to be tremendous achievement in the face of several constraints faced by the scheme. It recommends that there should be an independent source of feedback and its scheme should be got evaluated by an independent agency.

(Para 7.5)

The Committee recommends for proportionate increase in allocation for this Scheme for Tenth Plan period to take care of all the shortages and obstacles being faced for its effective implementation. (Para 7.6)

VIII. QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS

The Committee learns that the plan allocation in 2003-04 for the scheme of Quality Improvement in Schools was drastically reduced from Rs. 26.00 crore to Rs. 7.80 crore at RE stage. Reason given was the low expenditure as well as non-receipt of feasible proposals from the State Governments, UTs and NGOs. The Committee is of the opinion that non-receipt of proposals means two things - proposals not received at all or proposals received but not found feasible. In either sense, there has to be some reasons behind it. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Department should try to find out the reasons and help the States/UTs prepare and send viable proposals in time. The Committee would like the Department to give proper publicity to the Scheme and identify some good/reputed voluntary associations as nodal agencies for mobilization of NGOs to implement the Scheme. (Para 8.2)

The Committee notes that all the five schemes mentioned above under this programme are very good schemes with noble aims to be achieved. But the non-utilization of funds for this scheme last year presents a dismal picture. The Committee is surprised to see that there were no physical targets fixed for the schemes during the Ninth Plan. This, the Committee feels, is a deplorable situation. The Committee is of the opinion that such a performance is the result of lack of foresight, commitment and accountability in the Department, as far this scheme is concerned. The Committee feels that the Department should have regular monitoring of this scheme.

(Para 8.3)

IX. ACCESS AND EQUITY

The Committee is not happy to see that even the reduced allocation could not be utilized and, in fact, the expenditure figures for 2003-04 stand at Rs. 7.00 crore, which is abysmally low. The Committee notes that the amount released to the NGOs to run their Girls Hostel is not based on a uniform pattern. The amount released to the NGOs is not the same, despite there being equal number of boarders in different hostels. Sometimes large numbers of NGOs situated in a particular area/State have been released funds *e.g.* Jajpur in Orissa in 2003-04. The Committee believes that there should be guidelines laid down for this purpose. If not, it should be done as soon as possible. Amount sanctioned, should not appear to be discriminatory. The Committee also emphasizes the need for putting an effective monitoring mechanism in place for the scheme and also for physical verification of the hostels and the inmates with the help of state authorities. (Para 9.4)

The Committee welcomes the setting up and upgrading of schools component of the Scheme and hopes that the Department would be able to find reputed NGOs with right proposals for one-time grant under the Scheme and will be able to spend the allocation optimally.

(Para 9.5)

X. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

The Committee is not convinced to see the manner in which this scheme is being implemented. India has become the leading supplier of ICT experts to all the developed nations. The country is on its way to becoming IT super power. Such an indifferent attitude, the Committee is sure, the nation can ill-afford at this juncture. The Committee, therefore, recommends that every effort be made to remove the obstacles in implementing this scheme with total vigour.

(Para 10.2)

The Committee recommends that more audio programmes be produced as the reach of Akashvani is wider than Doordarshan as it reaches even the remotest part of the nation.

(Para 10.3)

The Committee is not satisfied on account of unspent balances, as against BE of Rs. 111 crore for 2003-04 and its drastic reduction in RE at Rs. 25 crore, the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 9 crore which is a humble 36 per cent. The Committee recommends that tendency of under-utilization of funds be curbed and all necessary steps taken for the effective implementation of the scheme. The Committee recommends that sincere efforts be made to utilize the entire allocation for 2004-05 so that the pending works are

completed in time to avoid time-cost overrun.

(Para 10.4)

XI. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

The Committee is of the view that international conferences provided the much-needed exposure, therefore, financial constraints should not come in the way for visits to international conferences.

(Para 11.7)

XII. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

The Committee expresses its reservations about the slow pace of expenditure by the IGNOU. While giving reasons for this, Department had mentioned, “and other considerations”. Such type of evasive reply clearly indicates that Department wants to hide certain facts. The Committee feels that such vague replies to its queries should be avoided and point to point precise replies given.

(Para 12.4)

XIII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS

The committee deplores that three years have already gone into the Tenth Plan and the Department was yet to finalise the restructuring of the Scheme. Looking at the ambit of this scheme i.e. rural youth, this kind of indifferent attitude would do more harm than good in long run.

(Para 13.2)

XIV. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES

The Committee is of the opinion that the National Council of Rural Institute has not become functional since 1995. There cannot be a better example of bureaucratic apathy and carelessness than this. The Committee strongly feels that Department should have made National Council of Rural Institutes functional by now. It, therefore, recommends that a time-bound action plan for doing this should be put in place at the earliest.

(Para 14.3)

XV. NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Committee takes a very serious note of the whole development and recommends that the Department needs to revisit the scheme for making it effective and ensure that procedural intricacies do not mar the academic efforts of deserving poor students.

(Para 15.5)

XVI. PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHERS

The Committee notes that several private universities have been set up by some State legislatures within a short span of time which have opened their extension campuses all over the country. These universities, most of which are sub-standard do not take clearance from the regulatory bodies like UGC/AICTE etc. It is contended by them that there can be no regulation on them, if they are not taking any grants from the government or the UGC. The Committee feels that these arguments are not tenable. While these universities might have been set up legally under a State law, they are under the obligation to fulfill the guidelines laid down by the national regulatory bodies like UGC/AICTE etc. The Committee feels that it is well within the mandate of the UGC to intervene and it has rightly done so by asking the private universities to adhere to the provisions of University Grants Commission (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Self-Financing Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. The Committee appreciates the recent action taken by the UGC under the existing regulations particularly in the State of Chhattisgarh, as a result of which, 34 universities not being able to fulfill the norms, have been denotified by the State Government. The Committee understands that UGC is still in the process of conducting inspections of private universities. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of the private universities found eligible by the UGC. The list of denotified universities as also the eligible ones should be widely publicized for the benefit of students at large. Merely, display on the website of UGC would not serve the purpose.

(Para 16.1)

In view of this, the Committee recommends that the Department should make all out efforts for having required powers, legal and administrative in order to deal with the unprecedented situation firmly. Such a blatant commercialization of education should not be allowed to continue any further.(Para 16.2)

The Committee is concerned at the existence of the fake universities in the country. It was argued that due to lighter penal provisions of Rs. 1000/- fine, the fake universities were getting away easily. The Committee recommends that every effort be taken, legal and administrative making it a criminal offence so as to deter/stop fake universities playing havoc with the future of the unsuspecting youth.

(Para 16.4)

MINUTES
**III
THIRD MEETING**

The Committee met at 2.30 P.M. on Thursday, the 12th August, 2004 in Committee Room 'A', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi ----*Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
3. Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey
4. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
5. Shrimati Vanga Geetha
6. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

LOK SABHA

7. Shri Basudeb Barman
8. Shri Hari Sinh Chavda
9. Shri R. L. Jalappa
10. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
11. Shri Manoj Kumar
12. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
13. Mohd. Mukim
14. Shri Tukaram R. Patil
15. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
16. Shri Devendra Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shrimati Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
 Shri N.K. Singh, Joint Director
 Shri J. Sundriyal, Under Secretary
 Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer
 Shrimati Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

WITNESSES
**(i) Ministry of Human Resource Development Representatives of
The Department of Elementary Education and Literacy**

1. Shrimati Kumud Bansal, Secretary
2. Shri K.M. Acharya, Joint Secretary (EE-I)
3. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Joint Secretary (EE-II)
4. Shri Jagan Mathews, Joint Secretary (Adult Education)
5. Shri C. Balakrishnan, Joint Secretary ((Planning)
6. Shri V.K. Pipersenia, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser
7. Prof H.P. Dixit, Director (NCERT)
8. Shri Shardindu, Chairperson (NCTE)
9. Prof P.K. Joshi, Director (NIEPA)
10. Ms. Ira Joshi, Director (EE)
11. Shri Amit Kaushik, Director
12. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DBA
13. Shri Suresh Kumar, Director
14. Shri Satish Loomba, Director
15. Shrimati Prana Gulati, Deputy Secretary
16. Shri P. Sudhir Kumar, Chief Controller of Accounts

(ii) Representatives of The Department of Secondary and

Higher Education

1. Shri B.S. Baswan, Secretary
2. Shri S. Banerjee, Additional Secretary
3. Shri S.P. Gaur, Joint Secretary (Commissioner KVS)
4. Shri C. Balakrishnan, Joint Secretary
5. Shri Ravi Mathur, Joint Secretary
6. Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary
7. Shri V.K. Pipersenia, Joint Secretary and FA
8. Shrimati Bela Banerjee, Joint Secretary
9. Shri Sudhir Kumar, Chief Controller of Accounts
10. Prof. Arun Nigavekar, Chairman, UGC
11. Prof. H.P. Dikshit, Director, NCERT
12. Shri P.K. Joshi, Director, NIEPA
13. Shri O.N. Singh, Commissioner, NVS
14. Dr. Ashok Ganguly, Chairman, CBSE
15. Prof. R. Natrajan, Chairman, AICCTE

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary and other representatives of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy and asked the Secretary to make brief presentation on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department. The Secretary made a presentation on the activities and achievements of the Department and briefly explained the budgetary allocation on different heads as also the functioning of the Department. The Members then sought clarifications, which the Secretary and the officials of the Department replied.

The witness then withdrew.

3. The Committee, thereafter, adjourned at 4.30 P.M. and reassembled at 4.45 P.M. to hear the Secretary, Department of Secondary and Higher Education.

4. The Chairman welcomed the Secretary and other officials of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education. The Secretary made a presentation on the activities and achievements of the Department and briefly explained the budgetary allocation under different heads as also the functioning of the Department. The Members then sought clarifications.

4A. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

5. The Committee then adjourned at 7.30 P.M. to meet again at 3.30 P.M. on Tuesday, the 17th August, 2004.

IV FOURTH MEETING

The Committee met at 3.30 P.M. on Tuesday, the 17th August, 2004, in Committee Room No. '63', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi ----*Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah
3. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
4. Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey
5. Shri S. Anbalagan
6. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
7. Shrimati Vanga Geetha

LOK SABHA

8. Shri Hari Sinh Chavda
9. Shri Ramswarup Koli
10. Shri Manjunath Kunnur
11. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
12. Shri Krishna Murari Moghe
13. Mohd. Mukim
14. Shri M. Rajamohan Reddy

15. Shrimati P. Satheedevi
16. Shri A.R. Shaheen
17. Shri K. Virupakshappa

SECRETARIAT

Shrimati Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Joint Director
Shri J. Sundriyal, Under Secretary
Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer
Shrimati Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

2. The Committee took up for consideration the 149th and 150th Draft Reports on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of (i) Department of Elementary Education and Literacy and (ii) Department of Secondary and Higher Education respectively. Both the reports were adopted with some minor modifications.
 3. The Committee, then, decided that the 151st Draft Report on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) pertaining to Department of Women and Child Development would be taken up for consideration and adoption the next day.
 4. The Committee, then, adjourned at 6.30 P.M. to meet again at 3.30 P.M. on 18th August 2004.
-