

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

HUNDRED FIFTY NINTH REPORT

ON

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2005-2006 (DEMAND NO. 58) OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 21ST APRIL, 2005)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 21ST APRIL, 2005)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
APRIL, 2005/ VAISAKHA, 1927 (SAKA)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(2005)**

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi ¾ *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. Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani
9. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary
10. Shri Anil Dhirubhai Ambani

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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. Smt. P. Satheedevi
28. Shri A.R. Shaheen
29. Smt. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar
30. Shri K. Virupaxappa
31. Shri Devendra Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shri N.C. Joshi, Additional Secretary
Smt. Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Director
Shri J. Sundriyal, Under Secretary
Shri Swarabji, B., Committee Officer
Smt. 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 this Hundred Fifty-Ninth 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 2005-2006.

2. The Committee considered the various documents and relevant papers received from the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and also heard the Secretary and other Officials of that Department on the said Demands for Grants in its meeting held on 31st March, 2005.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 20th April, 2005.

NEW DELHI;
April 20, 2005
Chaitra 30, 1927, (Saka)

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

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The system of education in India has broadly been divided in two categories: elementary education and secondary and higher education, which are looked after by two separate Departments under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The Department of Secondary and Higher Education, apart from evolving educational policy in all its aspects and determining the standards in higher education including research, is implementing various policies/programmes for developing school education as well as university and higher education. It is also responsible for developing technical education, book promotion, language development, etc. It also supports schemes of scholarship for higher studies in India

and abroad.

II BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

2.1 The allocations for the Department of Secondary and Higher Education in the current Budget are as under:

	(Rs. In crore)		
	BE 2004-2005	RE 2004-2005	BE 2005-2006
Plan	2224.15	2224.15	2712.50
Non-Plan	2833.24	3000.00	3090.00
Total	5057.39	5224.15	5800.50

2.2 The Committee was informed that the approved Plan outlay for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 2712.00 crores as against the projected Plan outlay of Rs. 3712.72 crores. The Committee notes that although Department was given Rs. 1000 crores less than from what they had projected, yet it had got around Rs. 486 crores more than the plan allocation given in 2004-05.

2.3 An increase of Rs. 576 crores has been made in the total allocation of the Department in the BE 2005-06, when compared to RE 2004-05.

2.4 To a query as to the reasons for less expenditure of Rs. 1668.96 crores as against the total allocation of Rs. 2224.15 crores in 2004-05, the Department clarified that the figures quoted were upto 4 March 2005. As per the latest figures, Rs. 1935 crores has been spent upto 29 March 2005. The Department claimed that it was spending money wisely in as much as 95 to 96 per cent of the allocated funds have been utilised in 2004-05. The Committee appreciates the enhancement in total allocation of the Department but is not satisfied with the trend of utilization of allocations. It is intriguing that Rs. 267 crores were spent in just 25 days i.e. from 4 to 29 March 2005. Going by the Department's claim of 95 per cent expenditure, the figure would actually cross Rs. 2100 crores, which means more than Rs. 400 crores were spent in the month of March 2005 itself. This is certainly a disturbing trend of expenditure.

2.5 The Committee was informed that whereas some of the schemes had been approved as late as early 2005, there are others for which funds were released in the last quarter. The Committee is aware that 100% utilization was difficult in view of some structural problems. For example State Governments were not able to furnish the Utilization Certificates in time, which causes delay in the further release of funds. However, this should not be taken as a plea for less/under utilization of funds. The Committee feels that the first installment to the States, must begin in April itself and the further installment may be released in the next quarter, if they are able to show that they have spent 50% of the first installment. For the remaining 50%, sufficient time can be given to them for submitting Utilization Certificates and completing other formalities.

2.6 The Committee further notes that the Department has not been able to fully utilize the funds even in respect of the central organisations and schemes, which are directly under its control. The Committee would like to point out that the NCERT could utilize only Rs. 12.00 crores out of its RE Rs.17.10 crores during 2004-05. Similarly, for Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) only Rs. 25 crores has been spent, out of the allocation of Rs. 97 crores; for Quality Improvement in Schools, out of Rs. 12.6 crores, only Rs. 4 crore was spent. Even for Access and Equity, of the Rs. 5 crores, only Rs. 2.3 crore could be spent during 2004-05. For all these schemes, the Department had projected the requirement of additional funds. It is therefore, evident that non receipt the Utilization Certificate is not the only reason for under-utilization of the allocations. The Committee feels that lack of preparedness, foresight and commitment of the part of Department are also equally responsible in this regard.

2.7 The Committee notes that there are some schemes, which have become difficult to implement/monitor from the Centre, resulting in their poor implementation. The Committee is of the view that the Department may identify such schemes and take up with the States as well as the Planning Commission to find out on effective strategy for their smooth functioning. The Committee would also like to review its past financial commitment in regard to those schemes, which it wants to close or revise before starting new schemes.

Non-utilization of Plan fund allocated during the year 2004-05

Name of the scheme	2004-05		<i>Rs. in crores</i>	
	BE	RE	2005-06 Funds utilized upto 4.3.05	BE
Establishment of Rural universities	1	.01	00	
Dr. Zakir Hussain College, Delhi	0.4	.36	00	
Grants to Institutions of Higher Learning of All India Importance	1	.3	00	.9
National Programme for women in Secondary and Higher Education	1	.01	00	.9
Payment for professional and Special Services	2.54	1.12	00	2.17
Polytechnics for Disabled persons	4	1.8	00	3.60

Direct Central Assistance to Central Institutions and RECs/NITs	35	9.9	00	.03
Technical Education Quality Improvement programme of Govt. of India	100	100	00	100
Support to New and Emerging Technology Areas	3.76	1	00	0.04
Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing Kancheepuram	10	0.9	00	9
Sitting up of new polytechnics	00	14.40	00	5.4
Infrastructure Development programme in Polytechnics	00	8.10	00	13.50

2.8 The Committee notes almost zero utilization of fund up to 14.3.2005 in case 12 programmes for which funds were allocated in the year 2004-05. Though the utilization was zero, substantial fund was again allocated to 10 programmes out of the above 12 schemes in the current financial year. The Committee expresses its displeasure at the non-utilisation of funds and the way in which these programmes are being managed. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for the non-utilization of funds and recommends that steps be taken to see that the hurdles were removed and the Schemes were implemented in the year 2005-2006.

2.9 In case of budget allocation for Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial college, Delhi and National Programme for Women in Secondary and Higher Education from the year 2002-03, no fund was utilized, though there was substantial budget allocation. The Committee is concerned to see that the money being allocated could not be utilized for the last three years, despite allocations being made every year for the college. The Committee, therefore, recommends that urgent measures should be taken for removing the hurdles so that money could be utilized.

2.10 The Committee observes that during the first three years of the Tenth Plan although level of allocated funds remained same, the Department failed to utilize them fully. Plan allocation for 2005-06 shows an increase of Rs. 486.00 crores when compared with 2004-2005 allocations. The Department should take all the required steps for optimum and judicious utilization of funds allocated for 2005-2006. The Department should desist from undertaking last minute spending. Expenditure should be more or less evenly in all the quarters of the year.

III NATIONAL COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME (NCMP)

3.1 The Committee was further informed that an additional plan allocation of Rs.250 crores was made to the Department of Secondary and Higher Education in 2004-05 for implementing schemes under the National Common Minimum Programme. The Ministry furnished the following details of utilization of the additional plan allocation of Rs.250 crores:-

1. Rs. 27 crores for Kendriya Vidyalayas and Rs. 36 crore for Navodaya Vidyalayas, - expected to be utilized.
2. Rs. 153 crores to UGC for implementation of NCMP related schemes/programmes including NE Region - under process for being released.
3. Rs. 3 crore in respect of the scheme of Appointment of Language Teachers - has been utilized.
4. Rs. 31 crore allocated for the schemes of setting up of new Polytechnics and infrastructure development in existing Polytechnics - could not be utilized due to some problem in the finalisation of the schemes. Hence, it has been decided to re-appropriate the funds to some other schemes in Technical Education Bureau.

3.2 The Committee notes that out of the 250 crores sanctioned, only Rs. 3 crore meant for appointing language teachers was utilized fully. Allocation for KVS and NVS was expected to be utilised. The Committee also notes that Rs. 31 crore allocated for the setting up of new Polytechnics and infrastructure development in existing Polytechnics, could not be utilized and the budget allocation was being re-appropriated to some other schemes. The Committee is not ready to buy any argument on the under utilization and reappropriation of the allocated funds. It is not a good practice. The Committee may be apprised about the details about utilization of the re-appropriated fund meant for new polytechnics and infrastructure development in existing polytechnics.

IV NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & TRAINING

4.1 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. The Committee was informed that the new initiatives undertaken by the NCERT included: development of model syllabus of Environmental Education for all

stages of school education. National Examination Reform framework; Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education-2004; encyclopedia of Indian Education; New Science and Technology Kit; and evaluation/quick review of its new generation textbooks.

4.2 The Committee notes that despite various new initiatives proposed by NCERT to carry out in the year 2005-06, allocation to it has been kept the same as that of last year. This points to the fact that programmes and initiatives have been envisaged without adequate financial backing. The Committee, therefore, apprehends that the proposed new initiatives as well as its on going programmes might suffer due to want of funds in the year 2005-06. Therefore, more funds may be given for NCERT at RE stage.

4.3 The Committee notes that NCERT could achieve the physical target of only 1512 programmes against a target of 2115 programmes set for the Ninth Plan. The achievement of financial target also was Rs. 10 crore less during the Ninth Plan. This is not a good sign for an effective functioning of the institution. The Committee was informed that during the year 2004-05 the RE for NCERT was fixed at Rs. 17.10 crores but the actual utilization upto March 2005 is only Rs. 12 crores. The Committee observes that utilization of NCERT budget is not upto the mark especially, when it is a central body and directly implementing almost all of its schemes. The Committee only hopes that the NCERT must have reviewed its programmes as well as targets for the Tenth Plan for achieving the cent percent physical and financial targets.

4.4 The Committee has been observing the progress being made in the construction of PSSCIVE, Bhopal and NERIE, Shillong. The Committee notes that proposal for construction of buildings for PSSCIVE, Bhopal has finally been approved by the SFC on 13th October, 2004 and approval of Human Resource Minister has also been conveyed to NCERT. The Committee hopes that phase –I of construction work must have been completed during 2004-05 and as planned, construction work would be completed in 2005-06. The Committee, however, is constrained to observe that construction work of NERIE, Shillong continues to be in the planning stage due to late receipt of revised cost estimate from the CPWD. The Committee apprehends that there are remote chances of the construction work being started as proposal is yet to be placed before the SFC. The Committee would like to emphasise that construction project for NERIE, Shillong should be closely monitored to avoid any further delay as well as increase in its cost estimate.

V KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

5.1 Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was set up in 1965, as a registered body, wholly financed by Government, to establish, control and manage Kendriya Vidyalayas. The main objectives of the scheme is to meet the educational needs of the children of transferable Central Government employees. During 2005-06, 15 more schools are proposed to be opened in special focus districts.

5.2 The Committee was informed that there is lot of demand from various States to open the KVs. But the need to maintain quality and resource limitations are acting as barriers for opening new schools. The Department therefore, has identified special focus districts in consultation with Planning Commission based on several aspects such as remoteness, poverty, and population of SCs, STs, and other Minorities. These norms laid down by the Planning Commission for identification of backward districts will be the main criteria for providing new Kendriya Vidyalayas.

5.3 The Committee also has been emphasizing the need for opening more and more Vidyalayas throughout India. The Committee appreciates the move on the part of the Department and the Planning Commission for identifying 15 special focus districts for opening new KVs. The Committee recommends that the Government may review the existing norms with a view to establishing more and more Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country, because these schools have the potential for competing with the public schools, which are beyond reach of the general public.

5.4 The BE 2005-06 for KVS is Rs. 164 crores as against Rs. 85 crores last year. The plan allocation has almost been doubled due to Department getting focused coverage under National Common Minimum Programme. The enhanced allocation, the Committee was informed, would take care of the increasing establishment expenditure of new KVs and also constructing permanent buildings for those KVs which are functioning from rented buildings. The Committee notes that KVS has plan to open 50 KVs this year, in addition to 15 more schools in special focus districts. The Committee hopes that the KVS would be able to undertake all its commitments - past, present as well as future, with this enhanced allocation.

5.5 The Committee notes that 32 new KVs were sanctioned during 2004-05. It was also proposed to sanction 11 staff quarters for each school building. The Committee would like to be apprised about the progress made in this regard. While appreciating the addition of new Vidyalayas every year, the Committee would like to point out that infrastructure and other facilities in the existing Vidyalayas also need to be improved. It would be appropriate if assessment about the status of each and every existing Vidyalayas is made by the Regional Offices in a time-bound Action Plan. And accordingly provision of Funds should be made. The Committee is of the view that provision of required infrastructure facilities is also very crucial

for the performance and growth of KVS.

5.6 The Committee was informed that approximately 300 KVs have introduced Information Technology as an elective subject to their Vidyalayas as on date, for Science, Commerce and Humanities Stream students. Information Technology is the backbone for the development of India and it is essential that the future generations are equipped to meet the looming challenges. The Committee, therefore, recommends that IT should be introduced as an elective subject to all the remaining KVs in a phased manner, if not, during the year 2005-2006 itself.

5.7 The Committee, in view of innumerable cases of transfers in KVs on the basis of extraneous pressures and considerations reported from time to time, feels that the transfer policy was not being implemented in letter and spirit. It is aware of some practical limitations in this matter. It, however, emphasizes that this policy needs to be effected with sensitivity and human face because most of the transfer requests are based on human considerations. There has to be maximum transparency in this regard.

VI NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI (NVS)

6.1 Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme started in 1985 with a view to providing good quality education to the talented children, pre-dominantly from rural areas. Under the scheme, it was envisaged to set up a residential school in every district. There are 509 schools (in addition to 2 State-level schools) covering as many districts in 34 States and Union territories, with more than about 1.68 lakh students on rolls. More than 30, 000 new students are admitted through a test every year in which the children who have passed Class V from any of the recognized schools in that district are eligible to appear. The test is designed and conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Status of construction of Navodaya Vidyalaya buildings as on date is as under:

Total no. of JNV sanctioned	515
JNV functioning	488
No. of JNVs where land is available for permanent construction	455
No. of JNVs where land is not transferred by District administration	59
Total no. of JNVs where construction work at permanent site sanctioned	450
No. of Vidyalayas shifted to permanent site in permanent building	368
JNVs likely to be shifted in permanent building. (Subject to the availability of funds)	
By March, 2006	35
By March, 2007	47

6.2 Budget of Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme is as under.

	(Rs. In crore)		
	BE 2004-2005	RE 2004-2005	BE 2005-2006
Plan	392.00	385.20	495.00
NER	0.00	42.80	55.00
Non-Plan	131.00	139.66	143.85
Total	523.00	567.66	693.85

6.3 The Committee was informed that enhanced funds for 2005-06 will be utilized for construction of school buildings and opening of 28 new NVs under NCMP. The Committee notes that out of 515 JNVs sanctioned, only 488 were functioning, that means 27 are yet to start functioning. Of all the 488 functioning, only 368 have permanent buildings - 120 are functioning from temporary sites. There are 59 cases where District administration is yet to transfer the land. Buildings of 82 Vidyalayas are at present under construction.

6.4 The Committee notes that physical targets for buildings projects of NVs have remained partially fulfilled. During the Ninth Plan, against a target of sanctioning of 94 Vidyalayas, only 80 could be sanctioned and out of which only 58 could become functional during the plan period. Non-receipt of suitable proposals from the concerned State Governments for providing minimal infrastructural facilities and financial constraints have been cited as the main factors responsible for shortfall in the achievement level of physical targets. The Committee finds that situation has not improved during the Tenth Plan either. During the first year i.e. 2002-2003, although target of sanction of Vidyalayas was achieved, only 20 Vidyalayas became functional against a target of 36 Vidyalayas. In 2003-04, even the targeted Vidyalayas could not be sanctioned and target and achievement level of functional Vidyalayas became wider against a target of 41 Vidyalayas, only 22 could become functional. During 2004-2005 in spite of about Rs. 150 crores in BE and another 36 crores under CMP being provided for construction, achievement level was only 19 against a target of 34 Vidyalayas. The Committee fails to understand the

shortfall in the construction of Vidyalaya buildings in spite of additional funds being provided therefor during 2004-05.

6.5 The Committee is of the view that either the targets are being fixed without examining their feasibility or construction work is being delayed due to procedural problem. In either case, there is a need for proper analysis of the root cause of the prevailing situation and finding solutions. Therefore, the Committee hopes that the pending construction works would be completed within a fixed schedule, there being additional allocation of Rs. 110 crore earmarked for the purpose.

6.6 The Committee recommends that in future the plan of construction of building of NVs must contain a provision for enabling the orthopaedically handicapped to access the school building, class rooms and the hostel facilities.

6.7 The Committee takes notice of the fact that maximum of 80 students can be admitted in class VI per year in a JNV. However, in view of shortage of accommodation in some Vidyalayas, it is presently being restricted to 40 only. Out of the total available seats, 75 percent seats are reserved for children from rural areas and reservation of SCs/STs and for girls are as per their actual population in the district subject to a minimum of national average. The Committee is concerned to note that though 75 per cent seats are reserved for students from rural areas, actual percentage of students from rural areas has declined to 70 percent in 2003-04. The Committee feels that this is against the very objective of the JNV scheme which is basically for talented children specially from rural areas. The Committee is not inclined to believe that it could be due to non-availability of talented students in our villages. It is a serious development and immediate measures should be taken to correct this situations so that rural students get preference. The Committee is surprised to note that despite of the increase in allocation for JNV, the number of dropouts has also increased equally. Lateral entry in other classes should also be allowed to fill the seats vacated by dropouts or transfers etc.

6.8 The Committee also notes that to promote national integration, the Scheme provides for migration of 30% students for a period of one year at class IX level from Vidyalayas in Hindi speaking States to Vidyalayas in non-Hindi speaking States and *vice-versa*. The Committee notes that till 2002-03 percentage of such students remained more than 90%. However, from 95.75% in 2002-2003, it declined to 78.70% in 2003-04. The Committee is, however, disturbed to note that this exchange programme has taken a beating since the percentage of students participating in this programme is declining from 92.12 per cent in 1997-98 to 78.70% in 2003-2004. The Committee feels that there must be some valid reasons for this sudden decline. The Committee desires that the Department may look into the reasons for this decline and take necessary steps to improve the percentage.

VII. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING

7.1 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 open schooling system in the world. Currently, it has about thirteen lakh students on roll at the Secondary and Senior Secondary stages.

7.2 The Committee notes that the Budget allocation for National Institute of Open Schooling is on a downward trend over the years. The BE 2005-06 allocated only [Rs.3.60](#) crores, which is just half of the allocation for the year 2004-05. The Committee asked the Ministry of HRD to explain the trend. The Ministry informed the Committee that National Institute of Open Schooling meets major part of its requirement of funds through its self-generated income under Non-Plan which is around 90% of total expenditure of NIOS. Grant under Plan head is provided by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) under specific items i.e. construction of building, academic activities, media programmes, student support activities and vocational programmes. The Committee was further informed that Plan allocation has been reduced during the year 2005-06 due to paucity of funds.

7.3 The Committee observes that the mission of National Open Schooling is to provide continuing education to those who have missed opportunities to complete their school education. To achieve this noble aim, the Committee feels that, paucity of funds should not be an obstacle.

7.4 The Committee noted that the number of study centers of NIOS have come down from 2500 in 2003-2004 to 2400 in 2004-2005. The Committee fails to understand why there is a reduction of hundred study centers in a single year. The Committee may be apprised about the reasons for the reduction in the number of Study Centres. The Committee recommends that Government should take every possible step to ensure that more and more study centers are opened for reaching the unreached. The Committee notes that State open Schools have been set up in eleven States - AP, Delhi, Haryana, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and W. Bengal. Eight more States, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, UP and Uttaranchal are in the process of doing so. While appreciating this development the Committee hopes that in due course, State Open Schools would be set up in remaining States also.

VIII INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

8.1 This scheme has been formed by merging the two existing schemes of Educational Technology (ET) and Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS). The Committee notes that during the Ninth Plan financial targets fixed under the two Schemes remained unfulfilled. Under ET Scheme, there was utilisation of only Rs. 47.86 crores against a target of Rs. 77.70 crores. Similarly, Financial Target for CLASS was Rs. 154.50 crores and achievement level was only Rs. 92.22 crores.

8.2 The Committee notes that for Tenth Plan, an amount of Rs. 800.00 crore has been projected. The Committee, however, notes that during the first three years, the Scheme has been undergoing various stages of revision process. As a result, allocated funds have remained mostly under-utilised –

						(Rs. in crores)		
<u>2002-03</u>				<u>2003-04</u>		<u>2004-05</u>		
<u>BE</u>	<u>RE</u>	<u>Act.</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>RE</u>	<u>Act.</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>RE</u>	<u>Act.</u>
99.90	24.90	24.50	111.00	25.00	9.00	97.00	24.30	35,000

8.3 The Committee was informed that during 2004-05, no financial assistance had been released under the 'ICT in Schools' scheme as it was yet to be approved by the competent authority. The Committee notes that the revised Scheme has finally been approved by the competent authority i.e. CCEA in December, 2004. Provision of Rs. 45 crores has been made during 2005-06. The Committee feels that the delay in approval of such a good scheme is not acceptable. The Committee holds the Department and the related agencies responsible for this, who failed to get the revised scheme approved in time. The Committee recommends that all out efforts should be made for the full utilization of Rs. 45 crores allocated in the budget 2005-06. The Committee feels this allocation would hardly be adequate for implementing the scheme with required pace.

IX. INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)

9.1 This is a Centrally-sponsored scheme aimed at providing educational opportunities to disabled children in normal schools to facilitate their retention and ultimate integration in the general school system. The Committee was informed that the scheme for Integrated Education for Disabled Children is being revised for taking it towards inclusive education. The draft of revised scheme for inclusive education to be placed before the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) is ready. After the meeting of EFC, it will be taken up with Cabinet for consideration and approval.

9.2 During the Tenth Five Year Plan, the total outlay of this scheme is Rs.200 crores. The Committee was further informed that during the first 3 years of 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2003, 2003-04 and 2004-2005) against BE of Rs.91.40 crores, Rs.93.70 crores at RE level was allocated, out of which 93.63 crores was utilized. During the financial year (2004-2005) as against the BE of Rs.39.00 crores an amount of only Rs.37.11 crore is likely to be utilized. Against total/cumulative total of 2 lakhs disabled children proposed to be integrated by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan, the target has been achieved by the end of the financial year 2003-2004. Some of the States like U.P., Bihar, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Sikkim and some of the North-Eastern States are not implementing the scheme.

9.3 The Committee was informed that some major constraints as indicated below have been noticed in the implementation of the scheme during the course of Ninth Plan and the first three years of the Tenth Plan –

- Acute shortage of trained special/resource teachers.
- Shortage of specialized aids and assistive devices.
- Lack of proper architectural design in General Schools.
- States/UTs appeared to be reluctant to forward the proposals of NGOs wanting to implement the scheme.

9.4 The Committee appreciates the targets achieved in the IEDC scheme despite the fact that some of the major States are not implementing the scheme. The Committee is of the view that the Department should effectively intervene to remove the difficulties/constraints being faced in the implementation of the scheme by these States. The Department may take the initiative for special focusing on these States by arranging exclusive training programmes for teachers and also required specialized educational aids and assistive devices. If need be, the matter may also be taken up with respective Chief Ministers of those States, which are not implementing the schemes meant for disabled children.

9.5 The Committee was informed that this Scheme was under revision. The Committee would also like to emphasise that the exercise of revision of this scheme should be completed at the earliest. The Committee notes that the scheme is being implemented by both State Education Departments and NGOs. The committee would like to be apprised about Statewise funds released to States and NGOs separately during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

9.6 The Committee also recommends that all out efforts may be made to ensure that allocation of 3% of education sector outlay for disabled children's education is adhered to. The Planning commission may be approached for any support to ensure that the nation should not undermine the aspirations and needs of the disabled children.

9.7 Committee's attention has been drawn by a comprehensive Action Plan for Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities. Following plans are envisaged under this Initiative of the Government:-

- To monitor the enrolment in schools of disabled children district level plans of SSA to focus on all aspects of education of children with special needs.

- Revised Plan for Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities at an enhanced outlay of Rs. 1,000 crores under which existing physical infrastructure and teaching methodologies to be modified for special children.
- All the schools to be made disabled friendly by 2020.
- Regular inservice training of teachers in inclusive education at the elementary/secondary level.
- Selected schools to be converted into Model Inclusive Schools.

9.8 The Committee welcomes this ambitious Action Plan for Children with special needs and hopes that action to implement the same will be initiated at the earliest. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department ensure that all the schools be made disabled friendly by the end of the Eleventh Plan i.e. 2012.

X. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

10.1 The Committee noted that the BE 2004-2005 of Rs. 20 crores was reduced to Rs. 12 crores of RE stage and only Rs. 9 crores has been allocated in BE 2005-06 for the Quality Improvement in Schools. The actual utilization in 2004-2005 upto March 4, 2005 was only Rs. 4 crores. The Department informed the Committee that the Scheme was under revision and, therefore, decrease of R.E during 2004-05 is due to the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Finance that releases under the scheme would be made in respect of only committed liabilities up to 31-3-2005 or till the restructured scheme of QIS gets the approval of the competent authority, whichever is earlier. During the extended period, only expenditure by way of discharge of committed liability will be incurred and no fresh proposal/any future commitment will be entrained. It was informed that the scheme was placed before EFC on 28th July, 2004 which has suggested some modifications in the structure of this scheme. The Draft Cabinet Note for CCEA .has been modified as suggested by EFC and is being finalised on the basis of comments received from appraising agencies.

10.2 The Committee is surprised to note that revision of this scheme is hanging fire for a long time. Even after a lapse of almost 9 months the Department could not finalise the draft Cabinet Note for the CCEA. Allocation of only Rs. 9.00 crores for 2005-06 as compared to much higher allocations being made in the first three years of Tenth Plan indicates that the chances of the Scheme being finalized and becoming operational during 2005-06 are not there. The Committee is constrained to say that an important scheme for improving quality in schools has not been handled in an effective manner. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all out efforts be made to ensure that the scheme gets approval from all the concerned authorities and implemented without any further delay.

10.3 The Committee in the past also has been emphasizing the need for converging schemes with overlapping mandates with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and resources. But in the instant case, the Committee notes that schemes with different mandates are being converged under one Scheme for Quality Improvement in Schools.

10.4 Following five schemes, which have been running since the formulation of National Education Policy, 1986 have been brought together under the new scheme –

- International Science Olympiads
- Environmental Orientation to School Education
- Introduction of Yoga in Schools
- Improvement of Science Education in Schools.
- National Population Education Project.

10.5 Apparently, there is no co-relation between the name of the Scheme and the nature of the components that are proposed to be put under it. The Committee does not know the rationale behind this convergence, unless it is being done for administrative convenience. The Committee would like to know the reasons behind it.

XI. ACCESS AND EQUITY

11.1 Under this Scheme for Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities for Girl Students of Secondary Education & Higher Secondary Schools, financial assistance is being given to the eligible voluntary organizations to improve the enrolment of adolescent girls belonging to rural areas and weaker sections.

11.2 The allocation for the scheme in the budget was Rs.30.00 crores for 2004-05. It has been reduced to Rs.5.40 crores due to the fact that the scheme was being revised. Expenditure reported upto 4th March, 2005 is only Rs. 2.33 crores.

11.3 The Committee notes that a large number of NGOs given grants, were from few regions of the country. The Department informed that extending grants in-aid to NGOs was keeping in view the backwardness of the area. However, as a large number of applications have been coming from NGOs in a particular area, it has not been possible to deny them benefit of grant. The details of NGOs given grant under this scheme state wise in 2004-05 is given below:

Andhra Pradesh	20
Arunachal Pradesh	01
Uttar Pradesh	05
Rajasthan	02
Manipur	03
Karnataka	14
Orissa	05

11.4 The Committee is not convinced by the criteria for grant of funds to NGOs under the existing scheme. There has to be an even distribution of grants as this scheme is meant for the entire country. Presently, it is seemingly being confined to only a few States. It reflects the lop-sided manner in which this scheme is being handled. The Committee recommends that a clear policy for providing grants to NGOs from all areas may be put in place at the earliest.

11.5 The achievement level of both physical and financial targets during the Ninth Plan confirms Committee's assessment. Against a target of 1 lakh beneficiaries, only 20,495 beneficiaries could be covered during the Ninth Plan. Similarly, only Rs. 10.24 crores could be utilised out of Rs. 60.00 crores allocated for the scheme. This trend is continuing although 3 years of Tenth Plan are over.

11.6 The Committee notes that the scheme is under revision for a long period. The revision has been delayed on one pretext or the other. The Committee observes that there is lack of seriousness on the part of the Government to finalise the programme at the earliest and implement in right earnest.

11.7 Even though the Department has been requesting the District Magistrate to carry out the inspection of the hostels, in most of the cases it has been found that inspection has been done by some lower level officials of the State Government. The Committee recommends that the State Governments may be directed to depute a senior officer of Education Department, if the District Magistrate is not available for carrying out the required inspections.

11.8 The Committee feels that in the case of 'Access and Equity' also there is hardly any co-relation between the name of the scheme and the components of it. It creates confusion, which should be avoided.

XII. RELEASE OF FUNDS

12.1 The Committee was informed that the quarter-wise release of funds of some of the scheme are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of the Scheme	Quarter-wise % of release of funds in 2002-03				Quarter-wise % of release of funds in 2003-04			
		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1.	Access & Equity					4.96	22.15	3.38	69.79
2.	IEDC	9	27	23	41	14	12	44	30
3.	QIS	1.54	37.52	7.89	53.03	Nil	9.13	11.99	78.87

12.2 The Committee was informed that bunching takes place due to late receipt of proposals, GIAC meeting, lack of information required by IFD, non-availability of inspection reports etc. The Committee notes that fund release to the tune of 69.79% and 78.87% for Access and Equity and Quality Improvement Schemes respectively were made in the fourth quarter of the year 2004-05. Moreover the fund release in other quarters also not even.

12.3 The Committee is not at all happy with this tendency of last minute spending. The Committee notes that this is happening in many other schemes year after year. The Committee further notes that all the required formalities are completed only in the last quarter and funds are released in bulk. Utilization of funds has to be even in all the quarters. It is not a healthy practice in fiscal area. The Committee therefore, recommends that the release of funds may be made uniform throughout the year.

XIII. CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

13.1 CBSE is a self-financing body, which meets the recurring and non-recurring expenditure without any grant-in-aid either from the Central Government or from any other source. All the financial requirements of the Board are met from the annual examination charges, affiliation fee, PMT examination etc.

13.2 The Committee notices that students are under tremendous pressure, which leads sometimes to suicides by them

particularly during Board examinations. The Committee is alarmed on this aspect. The Committee has been informed that CBSE has taken a number of steps to reduce stress among students as indicated below –

- Launching of 'helpline' one month before the commencement of examination also before the declaration of results.
- Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarise students and teachers about the nature of questions and question papers.
- Elimination of overall aggregation of marks to reduce unhealthy competition among students.
- Introduction of comprehensive and continuous school-based evaluation.

13.3 The Committee is of the view that besides examination stress, there are various other contributory factors such as parental pressure, increasing competition, fast changing social and economic conditions, etc. which cause depression in students. The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken by the CBSE and hopes that these measures would result in giving a better environment to students. The Committee feels that the current practice of holding Board exams for Secondary and Senior Secondary students at schools other than their own, also generates a kind of fear psychosis amongst them. The Committee is of the view that in order to avoid this, holding board examinations in their own schools, with supervisors/invigilators from different schools, may also be considered.

13.4 The Committee notes that there is a malpractice cell set up by CBSE whose main objective is to keep a vigilant watch on educational activities of private organizations and institutions. The committee has been informed that so far the following have been identified as fake boards:

- Central Board of Higher Education, Vachaspati Bhavan, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi.
- All India Board of Secondary Education, Gazipur,
- Central Board of Higher Education, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi.
- Board of Adult Education and Training, Brahmipuri, Nangalrai, New Delhi.

13.5 These institutions, the Committee is sure must be fleecing the unsuspecting students for providing degrees/diplomas having no recognition. It must stop. The Committee would like to be apprised about action if any taken against these boards.

XIV. ALL INDIA COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

14.1 As per the Expenditure Budget of the Department for 2005-2006, an amount of Rs. 91.48 crores has been allocated under the plan head for reorganizing, restructuring and strengthening of AICTE Bureau of Technical Education and its Committee and Boards which constitutes an increase of 70% over Rs. 54 crores allocated last year. On a query, the Department stated that presently, there was no proposal to restructure and reorganize AICTE as such.

14.2 The Committee is amazed to see that funds have been allocated for the purpose of restructuring the AICTE Technical Bureau and its Committees but the Department says that there was no such proposal. The Committee would like to have a clarification in this regard.

14.3 The Committee has learnt that a lot of delay is caused in clearing the proposals for avoiding new approvals by the AICTE. In the current scenario, we could ill afford to do that. The Committee, therefore, recommends that process of according approval by the AICTE needs to be streamlined and made more transparent.

XV. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES

15.1 National Council of Rural Institutes has been registered as an autonomous society fully funded by the Central Government at Hyderabad. Its aims and objectives are to promote rural higher education on the basis of Mahatma Gandhi's ideas on education so as to take up challenges of micro planning for transformation of rural areas and consolidate network and develop institutions engaged in programme of Gandhian Basic Education and *Nai Talim*. Their mandate is to promote Gandhian and rural based education and to see that rural content in universities and higher education is furthered.

15.2 The Committee was informed that though the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI), Hyderabad was established in October, 1995, it could not be made fully operational mainly due to the lack of regular staff. Recently, the Government has approved the creation of the post of Chairman of NCRI, Hyderabad in the pay of Rs.25, 000/-pm (fixed) for which the Recruitment Rules are yet to be framed. The Ministry had taken up the creation of 14 posts as approved by SFC earlier, with the Ministry of Finance. As the process involves framing of Recruitment Rules and filling up the posts according to that rule, all efforts are being made to make the Institute fully operational during 2005-06.

15.3 The Committee is at a loss to see that the Government has not been able to ensure that Institute starts functioning, which was set up in 1995. It is not convinced by the purely technical explanation given for the delay by the Department. It

is baffling that it took almost ten years to create a post of Director of an Institute, which was set up in 1995. And now, it is claimed that everything would be in place by 2005-06. The Committee does not have any reason to believe this. The Committee, however, recommends that Department must ensure that the Director is appointed and remaining posts are filled up during 2005-06. It also calls upon the Ministry of Finance to provide necessary clearances, etc. on priority basis in the year 2005-06 itself.

XVI. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND HR DEVELOPMENT IN IT

The Committee notes that the Budget allocation for Research and Development and National Programme for Human Resource Development in Information Technology has been reduced to NIL on the direction of Planning Commission. The Committee also notes that alternate programmes are in the preparatory stage and will take time to materialize. The committee observes that stoppage of some scheme without finalizing the schemes to substitute it would adversely affect the Research and Development and HR Development in Information Technology. The Committee therefore, recommends that in future the existing programmes can be discontinued only after the alternative programmes have been formulated.

XVII. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

17.1 Under the scheme, job-oriented courses at +2 level are being provided in the areas of Agriculture, Business and Commerce, Engineering and Technology, Home Science, Health and Paramedical, Social Sciences, Humanities etc. The Scheme has created an infrastructure in 20600 Sections in 7300 Schools with an enrolment capacity of 10 lakhs with the total expenditure of approximately Rs. 727 crores since the inception of this scheme.

17.2 The Committee was informed that vocational education is facing a number of problems. The first one is that the Department of Secondary and Higher Education is doing it in isolation. Secondly, the machines given to the vocational education students have become totally obsolete. Lack of coordination among various agencies, which are implementing various vocational schemes, is the third problem area. The Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Urban Development, SGRY, PMGRY, with a plethora of schemes are all doing their bit in their own way. There is no vision.

17.3 The budget allocation for the 10th Plan is Rs. 350 crores and the budget allocation of the Annual Plan 2004-05 is Rs. 50 crores. However, the Department could utilize only Rs. 10.80 crores in 2004-05. The Committee was informed that the scheme was under revision and it was expected that the revised scheme can be implemented from 2005-06 onwards. An outlay of Rs. 20 crores has been proposed in the BE 2005-06 since at this stage it is not known what will be components of the revised scheme.

17.4 The Committee is surprised to note that though the proposal for revised Scheme of vocational education was mooted in the year 2002, the revised plan is yet to be finalized. As a result, it could not be implemented last year also. Vocationalisation of education is our priority area and need of the hour, specially in view of the shrinking employment opportunities. The Committee recommends that the revised Vocational Education and Training Programme must be implemented during this financial year itself and adequate fund allocation may be made to the scheme to achieve its objectives.

XVIII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS

18.1 The Scheme of Community Polytechnics was started during the year 1978-79 as a Direct Central Assistance Scheme of the Government of India with the aim of harnessing the scientific/technical knowledge available with Polytechnics to secure Community/Rural Development. The region-wise distribution of Community Polytechnics is given below:-

Northern Region	:	187
Eastern Region	:	97
Western Region	:	145
Southern Region	:	240
Total	:	669

18.2 The allocation in BE 2004-2005 for Community Polytechnics was Rs. 29.23 crores, which was increased to Rs. 31.71 crores at RE 2004-2005. However, the Committee is dismayed to note that the utilization of this enhanced allocation has been only Rs. 11.05 crores as on 4.3.2005 which is a mere 34.84 per cent of the allocation. The Committee would like the Department to see that the funds for 2005-06 are utilized properly and judiciously for such an important scheme.

18.3 The Committee observes that the scheme of Community Polytechnics although started in 1978-79 has failed to make the desired impact so far. During the Ninth Plan against a target of 14 lakh persons, only 11 lakh persons could be trained in various non-formal job-oriented skill. Funds allocated also remained underutilized. Expenditure of only RS. 97.87 crore could be made against an allocation of Rs. 297.26 crores. During the first three years of Tenth Plan also, funds remained underutilized. The committee notes that in 2002-03, allocation of Rs. 65.00 crore had to be reduced to Rs. 37 crores and

against that reduced allocation of unspent balances lying with community Polytechnics was adjusted. The other reason for underutilization is prolonged process of revision of the Scheme. During 2002-03 and 2003-04 EFC Proposal could not be finalized. It was only in 2004-05 that EFC was finalized at the Department level. Comments from some Ministries, including Planning Commission are awaited. The Committee is constrained to observe that the meeting of EFC could not be held by the end of March, 2005. The Committee can only hope that the restructured Scheme can be implemented perhaps in the end of Tenth Plan, i.e. 2006-07.

18.4 The Committee feels that the regional distribution of Community Polytechnics is uneven. Particularly, eastern region has only 97 Community Polytechnics. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department should try to open more Community Polytechnics in eastern region which is a backward area having the highest concentration of rural population. The imparting of technical skills will help ameliorate the pitiable conditions prevailing there. The Committee feels that the underutilization of funds must have affected the training programmes, thereby defeating the very objective of the Scheme.

XIX. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

19.1 The University Grants Commission (UGC) was set up in 1956 under a Central Act for the purpose of coordination and determination of standards of universities.

19.2 The Committee was informed that the five broad sectors of the Xth Plan consisting of around 75 Schemes/Programmes are:

- (i) General development of universities and colleges.
- (ii) Enhancing access and equity.
- (iii) Promotion of relevant education.
- (iv) Quality and excellence.
- (v) Strengthening of research.

19.3 The Committee was given to understand that UGC is actively pursuing its mandate of promotion and coordination in Higher Education. However, the Committee feels that UGC needs to be strengthened to cope with the emerging trends of liberalization, privatization and globalization. The uncomfortable proliferation of private universities with the off-campus centers are one of areas where the UGC has not been effective. The Committee therefore, recommends that the UGC Act may be reviewed and amended to enable the UGC to cope up with the emerging challenges of Higher Education.

XX. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)

20.1 The Committee was informed that the financial support from the Government to the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) decreased during the last three years on account of the reasons that the IGNOU is expected to meet the remaining share of the plan size and the entire Non-Plan (Maintenance) outlay from its own internal resources.

20.2 During the last three years commencing from the year 2001-02, the utilization of the allocation of IGNOU has been Rs. 56.00 crores, Rs. 35.30 crores (including unspent balance of Rs. 3.31 Crores) and Rs. 20.00 crores (including Rs. 3.44 crores).

20.2 The Committee observes that the Open University System is being utilized by the large segment of population, mainly from disadvantaged groups. The Committee appreciates that IGNOU gradually is becoming self-supporting. It also has taken certain innovative steps recently and started modern professional courses in a big way. The Committee feels that such an institution should not suffer on account of paucity of funds. It, therefore, should continue getting funds at least to develop infrastructure and maintenance of the university to ensure that IGNOU is not forced to overcharge its students.

20.3 The Committee was informed that the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates awarded by Open Universities are recognized by UGC and AIU. The system has established its credibility by exploding the myth about the quality of process and product, employability and development. The Open University learners compete at par with their conventional counter parts.

20.4 The Committee appreciates the steps taken by the Distance Education Council (DEC) to ensure the quality of the degrees awarded in the Open University system.

XXI. OPEN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN THE NORTH EAST

21.1 The Committee was informed that the Govt. has been making efforts to spread the Open University system in the North East Region. IGNOU has created 8 Regional Centres, 144 Study Centres and 8 Tele-learning Centres. The university is also establishing EDUSAT enabled Centres for interactive learning. IGNOU has been developing FM Radio Stations at Guwahati and Shillong dedicated to education. IGNOU has also been assisting the State Govt. of Assam for the setting up

of a State Open University in the State.

21.2 The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken in the North Eastern Region for development of Open University system. The Committee recommends that more centres may be opened in the North Eastern to augment the already existing system.

XXII. NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

22.1 The National Merit Scholarship Scheme provides support to talented students and encourages them to excel academically in studies by giving recognition and financial assistance from post-matric level to post graduation level on state-wise merit basis and also separately to talented and meritorious students in rural areas from IX to X classes.

22.2 The 'National Scholarship Scheme' and the 'Scholarship Scheme for Talented Children from Rural Areas' have been merged into a new scheme viz. 'National Merit Scholarship Scheme'. Under the existing schemes, the total BE for 2004-05 was kept at Rs. 7.00 crores. As the requisite approvals for merger of the existing schemes were received late, the new scheme could not be implemented during the financial year 2004-05. The Committee was informed that the total outlay of Rs. 11.00 (including NER) crores provided for 2005-06 would be adequate to meet the objective of the National Merit Scholarship Scheme.

22.3 The Committee was informed that in 2004-2005, 38,000 scholarships under National Scholarship Scheme and 43,000 Scholarship under Scheme of Scholarship at Secondary Stage for Talented Children from Rural Areas were announced. However, under the new National Merit Scholarship Scheme the total number of Scholarships awarded will be about 20,500 per year for the whole country. Out of this about 10,750 scholarships will be awarded for class IX and X students in rural areas and 9750 scholarships from class XI to Post Graduate level at state level. The reduction in scholarships has been due to the increase in scholarship amount.

22.4 The Committee notes with concern that the total number of scholarships has been reduced to approximately 28,000 in a year, which by any standard is very low. The Committee therefore, recommends that the number of Scholarships and the total outlay of the scheme may be substantially increased progressively, so that more and more intelligent and needy students are benefitted.

XXIII. SCHEME OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

The Scheme of National Research Professorship was instituted in 1949, to honour distinguished academics and scholars who have attained the age of 65 years and who have made outstanding contribution in their respective fields and are still capable of productive research are considered for appointment as National Professors, at any time, excluding those who have retire on life pension, should not exceed 12. The Committee was informed that at present there is no National Research Professor in position. The Committee does not know the reasons for not having any national Professors currently. The Committee feels that the process of selection of National Professor should be finalized at the earliest and more funds be provided for this Scheme.

XXIV. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

The Committee opines that granting Rs. 100 crores to Indian Institute of Science is a welcome step to make it a world-class institution. The Committee recommends that at least seven more reputed Institutions may be selected for grant of Rs. 100 crore each for conducting research and development in basic science.

XXV. MAHATMA GANDHI ANTARRASHTRIYA HINDI VISHWAVIDYALAYA

25.1 Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha is the only International Hindi University established by an Act of Parliament in 1997. The Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha started its functioning from a camp office in New Delhi in the year 1997. The University shifted to its Headquarters at Wardha in December, 2003 where some low-cost building were available to house administrative office, class rooms, library etc.

25.2 During the Ninth plan period, against the allocation of Rs.1800 lakhs the University received Rs.1144.75 lakhs out of which only Rs.590.75 lakhs could be utilized by it. During the Tenth plan a sum of Rs.1291 lakhs was earmarked for the University against which Rs.737 lakhs has been allotted after the adjustment of unspent balance of Rs.554 lakhs at the end of 9th Plan period. Against this plan allocation, Rs.638.60 lakhs has already been released by the UGC and the University has utilized a sum of Rs.576.80 lakhs. Under the non-plan (maintenance) budget head, Rs.345.56 lakhs has been released by the UGC since year 2002-03.

25.3 The Committee was informed that Vishwavidyalaya has acquired 112.5 acres of land for university campus at

Wardha and its boundary wall has also been erected. Presently, the university is functioning from the temporary structure built there to house administrative office, class-rooms, library etc. Construction of infrastructure on the campus, such as students' hostel, residential accommodation for teachers and staff and other facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.96 crores has already been awarded to the Central Public Works Department. It is expected that the work on the project would commence soon.

25.4 The Committee notes that no response came from the Department to its specific and pointed queries regarding reasons for its previous VC functioning from Delhi and also for not starting academic activities of the university even after more than 8 years of its existence. Main civil works are yet to commence and the university is housed in some temporary structure at Wardha.

25.5 On a specific query, the Department informed that a fact-finding committee was being set up to go into the affairs of the university. The Committee expresses its displeasure on the way this Vishwavidyalaya named after Mahatma Gandhi has been treated so far. The Committee appreciates that fact-finding Committee has been appointed and its efforts are on to help improve its functioning. The Committee would like to be apprised of the finding of the proposed fact-finding Committee. It feels that those found guilty should not be allowed to go unpunished.

XXVI.PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

26.1 The issue of private universities has been receiving the attention of the Committee all through. The Committee was informed that recently, the Supreme Court of India, *vide* its order dated 11 February, 2005, has declared the provisions of Sections 5 and 6, of the Chhattisgarh Niji Kshetra Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana Aur Viniyaman) Adhiniyam, 2002 to be *ultra vires* of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has further directed the State Government that, in order to protect the interests of the students who may be actually studying in the institutions established by such private Universities, it should take appropriate measures to have such institutions affiliation provided if it fulfills the requisite norms and standards laid down for such purpose.

26.2 The Ministry of Human Resource Development informed the Committee that as per the information furnished by the Chhattisgarh Government and the UGC, out of the 37 notified universities, 19 universities were providing class room teachings and, approximately 23 thousand students were enrolled with these erstwhile private universities. A majority of the students were enrolled with the off-campus centers outside the State of Chhattisgarh and a majority of them numbering around 35000 in the National Capital Region.

26.3 The Ministry of Human Resource Development informed that they are extremely concerned about the future of the thousands of students, who were studying in these now defunct private 'universities', particularly those outside Chhattisgarh.

26.4 The Ministry of Human Resource Development also promised expeditious action on whatever procedural obligations are expected under the relevant laws governing these bodies, so that the standards of higher education are maintained. The UGC and the other statutory bodies would willingly provide any technical or academic assistance for determining the standards of education or equivalence of degrees or other awards. Since a majority of the affected students enrolled in the off-campus centers are reported to be from the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, the Delhi Government is also taking appropriate steps. The Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has, in principle agreed that requests received from affected universities before the 31st March, 2005 would be considered for affiliation as 'special cases', provided such institutions met the required standards of higher and professional education.

26.5 The Committee was further informed that a Committee of the CABE, under Prof. B.L. Mungekar, Member of the Planning Commission, is specifically looking into all issues relevant to the financing of higher and technical education. The terms of reference of the Committee are: to examine the adequacy of investments and to find ways of augmenting the resource flow in Higher Education; to examine the question of fair share of 6 percent of the GDP to Higher Education; and to suggest the ways of encouraging and regulating private participation and investments in Higher/Technical Education.

26.6 Central bodies such as the UGC, the AICTE, the NCTE would, without compromising with the quality and standards of higher education and technical education, collapse the processing time required, in the best interests of the affected students. Also in the short run, the Ministry have to see that those who obstruct a practical and just solution to the problem, only because their commercial interest are uppermost in their minds, are dealt with sternly and appropriately.

26.7 The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken by the Department of Secondary & Higher Education to deal with the various aspects of the proliferation of the private universities and the fall out of the Supreme Court judgment in Chattisgarh University Act. The Committee would however, like to add that the recent problem being faced by a very large number of students of private universities should have been foreseen by both UGC and the Department. At the initial stage only, some corrective action could have been taken. Future of enrolled students in these Universities should not be allowed to suffer. The

Committee recommends that the Department should vigorously further pursue the initiatives they have taken to streamline the private university system.

26.8 The Committee recommends that private investment in higher education is welcome provided it is really helpful to meet the need and aspirations of the young generations and it fits into the overall policy of the Government at the Central level and at the State level. There should be no compromise in relations to standards and quality. While encouraging the private participation, blatant commercialization of higher education needs to be discouraged.

26.9 Obviously any structured private investment in higher education would have to be made through a legislative framework. That may take some time. Investment in this sector has already been put on the automatic route. In this light, till a suitable legislation is in place, at least a Policy Framework be made at the earliest.

XXVII. GENERAL

27.1 The Committee enquired from the MHRD about the programmes and schemes available to the States which are advanced in elementary education for continuing their performance in Higher Education sector also. The Committee was informed that at present, no such distinction is drawn between the States, which have done better in the Elementary Education and the others, which have not, while allocating resources for the higher education sectors.

27.2 Due to the universalisation of primary education under SSA, it is expected that the demand for secondary education and higher education will go up in the coming years. A committee of the Central Advisory Board on Education has been set up to examine the various aspects of this matter. The schemes to be formulated will depend on the Committee's recommendations.

27.3 The Committee opines that the States which have done better in elementary education obviously would need more facilities of Higher Education to accommodate all those coming from the elementary stage. If the State Government is not in a position to manage the demand on Higher Education, they are likely to face unrest and strain in the society. It may dilute the achievements in the elementary education. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Government of India should ensure that those States, which have performed well in elementary education, should get higher fund allocation to sustain the achievements in elementary education as well as furthering the Higher Education.

27.4 National Policy on Education, 1986 as well as the NCMP aim at achieving the target of investing six per cent of the GDP in education but upto 2005-06, slightly more than three per cent only could be achieved. With this rate, the Committee feels that, this goal shall remain unfulfilled. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the target of investing six per cent of GDP in education should be tried to be achieved by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

27.5 The Committee opines that the ground for growth of Higher Education will be made only when there is advancement in elementary education in the region. If not, it may again lead to imbalance in the higher education system. The Committee therefore, recommends that more and more higher education institutions may be established in States where there are advancements in elementary education.

XXVIII. ACTION TAKEN NOTES

28.1 The Committee would like to draw the attention of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education towards its report on Demand for Grants 2004-2005, which was presented to Parliament on 20 August 2004. As per the practice, the Department was required to furnish Action Taken Notes within three months i.e. by the end of November 2004. The matter was consistently pursued with the Department for expediting its Action Taken Notes, but unfortunately, the same was received by the Committee only on 28 February 2005 i.e. after the Budget for 2005-06 was presented to the Parliament. As a result, the Committee could neither examine the Action Taken Notes of the Department nor could it present its ATR to the Parliament. It is a procedural lapse caused solely due to delay on the part of the Department. All other Departments/Ministries were able to provide their ATNs on time.

28.2 This, according to the Committee, is a serious matter. The Committee is supposed to submit ATR on ATNs on the last year Demands before the Demands of the succeeding year's are presented to the House. It means that the Department did not take the Committee's work seriously. The Committee knows that it takes time to collect facts from every corner of the country, but if other Departments could, why not the Department of Secondary and Higher Education also do that? The Committee even had advised the Department to send part information that was available and rest could be sent afterward. That also could not be done. The Committee takes a serious exception to this and hopes that Department would accord priority and importance that the Committee's work deserves so that it performs its constitutional obligation without any

hindrance or delay.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE

II BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

The Committee appreciates the enhancement in total allocation of the Department but is not satisfied with the trend of utilization of allocations. It is intriguing that Rs. 267 crores were spent in just 25 days i.e. from 4 to 29 March 2005. Going by the Department's claim of 95 per cent expenditure, the figure would actually cross Rs. 2100 crores, which means more than Rs. 400 crores were spent in the month of March 2005 itself. This is certainly a disturbing trend of expenditure. (Para 2.4)

The Committee was informed that whereas some of the schemes had been approved as late as early 2005, there are others for which funds were released in the last quarter. The Committee is aware that 100% utilization was difficult in view of some structural problems. For example State Governments were not able to furnish the Utilization Certificates in time, which causes delay in the further release of funds. However, this should not be taken as a plea for less/under utilization of funds. The Committee feels that the first installment to the States, must begin in April itself and the further installment may be released in the next quarter, if they are able to show that they have spent 50% of the first installment. For the remaining 50%, sufficient time can be given to them for submitting Utilization Certificates and completing other formalities. (Para 2.5)

It is therefore, evident that non receipt the Utilization Certificate is not the only reason for under-utilization of the allocations. The Committee feels that lack of preparedness, foresight and commitment of the part of Department are also equally responsible in this regard. (Para 2.6)

The Committee notes that there are some schemes, which have become difficult to implement/monitor from the Centre, resulting in their poor implementation. The Committee is of the view that the Department may identify such schemes and take up with the States as well as the Planning Commission to find out on effective strategy for their smooth functioning. The Committee would also like to review its past financial commitment in regard to those schemes, which it wants to close or revise before starting new schemes. (Para 2.7)

The Committee expresses its displeasure at the non-utilisation of funds and the way in which these programmes are being managed. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons for the non-utilization of funds and recommends that steps be taken to see that the hurdles were removed and the Schemes were implemented in the year 2005-2006. (Para 2.8)

The Committee is concerned to see that the money being allocated could not be utilized for the last three years, despite allocations being made every year for the college. The Committee, therefore, recommends that urgent measures should be taken for removing the hurdles so that money could be utilized. (Para 2.9)

III NATIONAL COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME (NCMP)

The Committee is not ready to buy any argument on the under utilization and reappropriation of the allocated funds. It is not a good practice. The Committee may be apprised about the details about utilization of the re-appropriated fund meant for new polytechnics and infrastructure development in existing polytechnics. (Para 3.2)

IV NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & TRAINING

The Committee notes that despite various new initiatives proposed by NCERT to carry out in the year 2005-06, allocation to it has been kept the same as that of last year. This points to the fact that programmes and initiatives have been envisaged without adequate financial backing. The Committee, therefore, apprehends that the proposed new initiatives as well as its on going programmes might suffer due to want of funds in the year 2005-06. Therefore, more funds may be given for NCERT at RE stage. (Para 4.2)

The Committee notes that NCERT could achieve the physical target of only 1512 programmes against a target of 2115 programmes set for the Ninth Plan. The achievement of financial target also was Rs. 10 crore less during the Ninth Plan. This is not a good sign for an effective functioning of the institution. The Committee was informed that during the year 2004-05 the RE for NCERT was fixed at Rs. 17.10 crores but the actual utilization upto March 2005 is only Rs. 12 crores. The Committee observes that utilization of NCERT budget is not upto the mark especially, when it is a central body and directly implementing almost all of its schemes. The Committee only hopes that the NCERT must have reviewed its programmes as well as targets for the Tenth Plan for achieving the cent percent physical and financial targets. (Para 4.3)

The Committee has been observing the progress being made in the construction of PSSCIVE, Bhopal and NERIE,

Shillong. The Committee notes that proposal for construction of buildings for PSSCIVE, Bhopal has finally been approved by the SFC on 13th October, 2004 and approval of Human Resource Minister has also been conveyed to NCERT. The Committee hopes that phase –I of construction work must have been completed during 2004-05 and as planned, construction work would be completed in 2005-06. The Committee, however, is constrained to observe that construction work of NERIE, Shillong continues to be in the planning stage due to late receipt of revised cost estimate from the CPWD. The Committee apprehends that there are remote chances of the construction work being started as proposal is yet to be placed before the SFC. The Committee would like to emphasise that construction project for NERIE, Shillong should be closely monitored to avoid any further delay as well as increase in its cost estimate. (Para 4.4)

V KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

5.3 The Committee also has been emphasizing the need for opening more and more Vidyalayas throughout India. The Committee appreciates the move on the part of the Department and the Planning Commission for identifying 15 special focus districts for opening new KVs. The Committee recommends that the Government may review the existing norms with a view to establishing more and more Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country, because these schools have the potential for competing with the public schools, which are beyond reach of the general public. (Para 5.3)

The Committee notes that KVS has plan to open 50 KVs this year, in addition to 15 more schools in special focus districts. The Committee hopes that the KVS would be able to undertake all its commitments - past, present as well as future, with this enhanced allocation. (Para 5.4)

The Committee, therefore, recommends that IT should be introduced as an elective subject to all the remaining KVs in a phased manner, if not, during the year 2005-2006 itself. (Para 5.6)

The Committee, in view of innumerable cases of transfers in KVs on the basis of extraneous pressures and considerations reported from time to time, feels that the transfer policy was not being implemented in letter and spirit. It is aware of some practical limitations in this matter. It, however, emphasizes that this policy needs to be effected with sensitivity and human face because most of the transfer requests are based on human considerations. There has to be maximum transparency in this regard. (Para 5.7)

VI NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI (NVS)

The Committee fails to understand the shortfall in the construction of Vidyalaya buildings in spite of additional funds being provided therefor during 2004-05. (Para 6.4)

6.5 The Committee is of the view that either the targets are being fixed without examining their feasibility or construction work is being delayed due to procedural problem. In either case, there is a need for proper analysis of the root cause of the prevailing situation and finding solutions. Therefore, the Committee hopes that the pending construction works would be completed within a fixed schedule, there being additional allocation of Rs. 110 crore earmarked for the purpose. (Para 6.5)

6.6 The Committee recommends that in future the plan of construction of building of NVs must contain a provision for enabling the orthopaedically handicapped to access the school building, class rooms and the hostel facilities. (Para 6.6)

The Committee is concerned to note that though 75 per cent seats are reserved for students from rural areas, actual percentage of students from rural areas has declined to 70 percent in 2003-04. The Committee feels that this is against the very objective of the JNV scheme which is basically for talented children specially from rural areas. The Committee is not inclined to believe that it could be due to non-availability of talented students in our villages. It is a serious development and immediate measures should be taken to correct this situations so that rural students get preference. The Committee is surprised to note that despite of the increase in allocation for JNV, the number of dropouts has also increased equally. Lateral entry in other classes should also be allowed to fill the seats vacated by dropouts or transfers etc. (Para 6.7)

The Committee is, however, disturbed to note that this exchange programme has taken a beating since the percentage of students participating in this programme is declining from 92.12 per cent in 1997-98 to 78.70% in 2003-2004. The Committee feels that there must be some valid reasons for this sudden decline. The Committee desires that the Department may look into the reasons for this decline and take necessary steps to improve the percentage. (Para 6.8)

VII. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING

The Committee observes that the mission of National Open Schooling is to provide continuing education to those who have missed opportunities to complete their school education. To achieve this noble aim, the Committee feels that, paucity of funds should not be an obstacle. (Para 7.3)

The Committee noted that the number of study centers of NIOS have come down from 2500 in 2003-2004 to 2400 in 2004-2005. The Committee fails to understand why there is a reduction of hundred study centers in a single year. The

Committee may be apprised about the reasons for the reduction in the number of Study Centres. The Committee recommends that Government should take every possible step to ensure that more and more study centers are opened for reaching the unreached. (Para 7.4)

VIII INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

The Committee feels that the delay in approval of such a good scheme is not acceptable. The Committee holds the Department and the related agencies responsible for this, who failed to get the revised scheme approved in time. The Committee recommends that all out efforts should be made for the full utilization of Rs. 45 crores allocated in the budget 2005-06. The Committee feels this allocation would hardly be adequate for implementing the scheme with required pace. (Para 8.3)

IX. INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)

The Committee appreciates the targets achieved in the IEDC scheme despite the fact that some of the major States are not implementing the scheme. The Committee is of the view that the Department should effectively intervene to remove the difficulties/constraints being faced in the implementation of the scheme by these States. The Department may take the initiative for special focusing on these States by arranging exclusive training programmes for teachers and also required specialized educational aids and assistive devices. If need be, the matter may also be taken up with respective Chief Ministers of those States, which are not implementing the schemes meant for disabled children. (Para 9.4)

The committee would like to be apprised about Statewise funds released to States and NGOs separately during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. (Para 9.5)

The Committee also recommends that all out efforts may be made to ensure that allocation of 3% of education sector outlay for disabled children's education is adhered to. The Planning commission may be approached for any support to ensure that the nation should not undermine the aspirations and needs of the disabled children. (Para 9.6)

The Committee welcomes this ambitious Action Plan for Children with special needs and hopes that action to implement the same will be initiated at the earliest. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department ensure that all the schools be made disabled friendly by the end of the Eleventh Plan i.e. 2012. (Para 9.8)

X. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

10.2 The Committee is surprised to note that revision of this scheme is hanging fire for a long time. Even after a lapse of almost 9 months the Department could not finalise the draft Cabinet Note for the CCEA. Allocation of only Rs. 9.00 crores for 2005-06 as compared to much higher allocations being made in the first three years of Tenth Plan indicates that the chances of the Scheme being finalized and becoming operational during 2005-06 are not there. The Committee is constrained to say that an important scheme for improving quality in schools has not been handled in an effective manner. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all out efforts be made to ensure that the scheme gets approval from all the concerned authorities and implemented without any further delay. (Para 10.2)

The Committee in the past also has been emphasizing the need for converging schemes with overlapping mandates with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and resources. But in the instant case, the Committee notes that schemes with different mandates are being converged under one Scheme for Quality Improvement in Schools. (Para 10.3)

10.5 Apparently, there is no co-relation between the name of the Scheme and the nature of the components that are proposed to be put under it. The Committee does not know the rationale behind this convergence, unless it is being done for administrative convenience. The Committee would like to know the reasons behind it. (Para 10.5)

XI. ACCESS AND EQUITY

11.4 The Committee is not convinced by the criteria for grant of funds to NGOs under the existing scheme. There has to be an even distribution of grants as this scheme is meant for the entire country. Presently, it is seemingly being confined to only a few States. It reflects the lop-sided manner in which this scheme is being handled. The Committee recommends that a clear policy for providing grants to NGOs from all areas may be put in place at the earliest. (Para 11.4)

The Committee observes that there is lack of seriousness on the part of the Government to finalise the programme at the earliest and implement in right earnest. (Para 11.6)

The Committee recommends that the State Governments may be directed to depute a senior officer of Education Department, if the District Magistrate is not available for carrying out the required inspections. (Para 11.7)

The Committee feels that in the case of 'Access and Equity' also there is hardly any co-relation between the name of the scheme and the components of it. It creates confusion, which should be avoided. (Para 11.8)

XII. RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Committee is not at all happy with this tendency of last minute spending. The Committee notes that this is happening in many other schemes year after year. The Committee further notes that all the required formalities are completed only in the last quarter and funds are released in bulk. Utilization of funds has to be even in all the quarters. It is not a healthy practice in fiscal area. The Committee therefore, recommends that the release of funds may be made uniform throughout the year. (Para 12.3)

XIII. CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

The Committee notices that students are under tremendous pressure, which leads sometimes to suicides by them particularly during Board examinations. The Committee is alarmed on this aspect. The Committee has been informed that CBSE has taken a number of steps to reduce stress among students as indicated below –

- Launching of 'helpline' one month before the commencement of examination also before the declaration of results.
- Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarise students and teachers about the nature of questions and question papers.
- Elimination of overall aggregation of marks to reduce unhealthy competition among students.
- Introduction of comprehensive and continuous school-based evaluation. (Para 13.2)

The Committee is of the view that besides examination stress, there are various other contributory factors such as parental pressure, increasing competition, fast changing social and economic conditions, etc. which cause depression in students. The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken by the CBSE and hopes that these measures would result in giving a better environment to students. The Committee feels that the current practice of holding Board exams for Secondary and Senior Secondary students at schools other than their own, also generates a kind of fear psychosis amongst them. The Committee is of the view that in order to avoid this, holding board examinations in their own schools, with supervisors/invigilators from different schools, may also be considered. (Para 13.3)

The Committee notes that there is a malpractice cell set up by CBSE whose main objective is to keep a vigilant watch on educational activities of private organizations and institutions. The committee has been informed that so far the following have been identified as fake boards:

- Central Board of Higher Education, Vachaspati Bhavan, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi.
- All India Board of Secondary Education, Gazipur,
- Central Board of Higher Education, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi.
- Board of Adult Education and Training, Brahmपुरi, Nangalrai, New Delhi. (Para 13.4)

These institutions, the Committee is sure must be fleecing the unsuspecting students for providing degrees/diplomas having no recognition. It must stop. The Committee would like to be apprised about action if any taken against these boards. (Para 13.5)

XIV. ALL INDIA COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Committee is amazed to see that funds have been allocated for the purpose of restructuring the AICTE Technical Bureau and its Committees but the Department says that there was no such proposal. The Committee would like to have a clarification in this regard. (Para 14.2)

The Committee has learnt that a lot of delay is caused in clearing the proposals for avoiding new approvals by the AICTE. In the current scenario, we could ill afford to do that. The Committee, therefore, recommends that process of according approval by the AICTE needs to be streamlined and made more transparent. (Para 14.3)

XV. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES

The Committee is at a loss to see that the Government has not been able to ensure that Institute starts functioning, which was set up in 1995. It is not convinced by the purely technical explanation given for the delay by the Department. It is baffling that it took almost ten years to create a post of Director of an Institute, which was set up in 1995. And now, it is claimed that everything would be in place by 2005-06. The Committee does not have any reason to believe this. The Committee, however, recommends that Department must ensure that the Director is appointed and remaining posts are filled up during 2005-06. It also calls upon the Ministry of Finance to provide necessary clearances, etc. on priority basis in the year 2005-06 itself. (Para 15.3)

XVI. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN IT

The Committee therefore, recommends that in future the existing programmes can be discontinued only after the alternative programmes have been formulated. (Para 16)

XVII. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The Committee is surprised to note that though the proposal for revised Scheme of vocational education was mooted in the year 2002, the revised plan is yet to be finalized. As a result, it could not be implemented last year also. Vocationalisation of education is our priority area and need of the hour, specially in view of the shrinking employment opportunities. The Committee recommends that the revised Vocational Education and Training Programme must be implemented during this financial year itself and adequate fund allocation may be made to the scheme to achieve its objectives. (Para 17.4)

XVIII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS

However, the Committee is dismayed to note that the utilization of this enhanced allocation has been only Rs. 11.05 crores as on 4.3.2005 which is a mere 34.84 per cent of the allocation. The Committee would like the Department to see that the funds for 2005-06 are utilized properly and judiciously for such an important scheme. (Para 18.2)

The Committee feels that the regional distribution of Community Polytechnics is uneven. Particularly, eastern region has only 97 Community Polytechnics. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department should try to open more Community Polytechnics in eastern region which is a backward area having the highest concentration of rural population. The imparting of technical skills will help ameliorate the pitiable conditions prevailing there. The Committee feels that the underutilization of funds must have affected the training programmes, thereby defeating the very objective of the Scheme. (Para 18.4)

XIX. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

The Committee was given to understand that UGC is actively pursuing its mandate of promotion and coordination in Higher Education. However, the Committee feels that UGC needs to be strengthened to cope with the emerging trends of liberalization, privatization and globalization. The uncomfortable proliferation of private universities with the off-campus centers are one of areas where the UGC has not been effective. The Committee therefore, recommends that the UGC Act may be reviewed and amended to enable the UGC to cope up with the emerging challenges of Higher Education. (Para 19.3)

XX. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)

The Committee appreciates that IGNOU gradually is becoming self-supporting. It also has taken certain innovative steps recently and started modern professional courses in a big way. The Committee feels that such an institution should not suffer on account of paucity of funds. It, therefore, should continue getting funds at least to develop infrastructure and maintenance of the university to ensure that IGNOU is not forced to overcharge its students. (Para 20.2)

The Committee appreciates the steps taken by the Distance Education Council (DEC) to ensure the quality of the degrees awarded in the Open University system. (Para 20.4)

XXI. OPEN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN THE NORTH EAST

The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken in the North Eastern Region for development of Open University system. The Committee recommends that more centres may be opened in the North Eastern to augment the already existing system. (Para 21.2)

XXII. NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Committee notes with concern that the total number of scholarships has been reduced to approximately 28,000 in a year, which by any standard is very low. The Committee therefore, recommends that the number of Scholarships and the total outlay of the scheme may be substantially increased progressively, so that more and more intelligent and needy students are benefitted. (Para 22.4)

XXIII. SCHEME OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

The Committee does not know the reasons for not having any national Professors currently. The Committee feels that

the process of selection of National Professor should be finalized at the earliest and more funds be provided for this Scheme. (Para 23)

XXIV. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

The Committee recommends that at least seven more reputed Institutions may be selected for grant of Rs. 100 crore each for conducting research and development in basic science. (Para 24)

XXV. MAHATMA GANDHI ANTARRASHTRIYA HINDI VISHWAVIDYALAYA

The Committee notes that no response came from the Department to its specific and pointed queries regarding reasons for its previous VC functioning from Delhi and also for not starting academic activities of the university even after more than 8 years of its existence. Main civil works are yet to commence and the university is housed in some temporary structure at Wardha. (Para 25.4)

On a specific query, the Department informed that a fact-finding committee was being set up to go into the affairs of the university. The Committee expresses its displeasure on the way this Vishwavidyalaya named after Mahatma Gandhi has been treated so far. The Committee appreciates that fact-finding Committee has been appointed and its efforts are on to help improve its functioning. The Committee would like to be apprised of the finding of the proposed fact-finding Committee. It feels that those found guilty should not be allowed to go unpunished. (Para 25.5)

XXVI.PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken by the Department of Secondary & Higher Education to deal with the various aspects of the proliferation of the private universities and the fall out of the Supreme Court judgment in Chattisgarh University Act. The Committee would however, like to add that the recent problem being faced by a very large number of students of private universities should have been foreseen by both UGC and the Department. At the initial stage only, some corrective action could have been taken. Future of enrolled students in these Universities should not be allowed to suffer. The Committee recommends that the Department should vigorously further pursue the initiatives they have taken to streamline the private university system. (Para 26.7)

The Committee recommends that private investment in higher education is welcome provided it is really helpful to meet the need and aspirations of the young generations and it fits into the overall policy of the Government at the Central level and at the State level. There should be no compromise in relations to standards and quality. While encouraging the private participation, blatant commercialization of higher education needs to be discouraged. (Para 26.8)

Obviously any structured private investment in higher education would have to be made through a legislative framework. That may take some time. Investment in this sector has already been put on the automatic route. In this light, till a suitable legislation is in place, at least a Policy Framework be made at the earliest. (Para 26.9)

XXVII. GENERAL

The Committee opines that the States which have done better in elementary education obviously would need more facilities of Higher Education to accommodate all those coming from the elementary stage. If the State Government is not in a position to manage the demand on Higher Education, they are likely to face unrest and strain in the society. It may dilute the achievements in the elementary education. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Government of India should ensure that those States, which have performed well in elementary education, should get higher fund allocation to sustain the achievements in elementary education as well as furthering the Higher Education. (Para 27.3)

National Policy on Education, 1986 as well as the NCMP aim at achieving the target of investing six per cent of the GDP in education but upto 2005-06, slightly more than three per cent only could be achieved. With this rate, the Committee feels that, this goal shall remain unfulfilled. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the target of investing six per cent of GDP in education should be tried to be achieved by the end of the Eleventh Plan. (Para 27.4)

The Committee opines that the ground for growth of Higher Education will be made only when there is advancement in elementary education in the region. If not, it may again lead to imbalance in the higher education system. The Committee therefore, recommends that more and more higher education institutions may be established in States where there are advancements in elementary education. (Para 27.5)

XXVIII. ACTION TAKEN NOTES

This, according to the Committee, is a serious matter. The Committee is supposed to submit ATR on ATNs on the last year Demands before the Demands of the succeeding year's are presented to the House. It means that the Department did not take the Committee's work seriously. The Committee knows that it takes time to collect facts from every corner of the country, but if other Departments could, why not the Department of Secondary and Higher Education also do that? The Committee even had advised the Department to send part information that was available and rest could be sent afterward. That also could not be done. The Committee takes a serious exception to this and hopes that Department would accord priority and importance that the Committee's work deserves so that it performs its constitutional obligation without any hindrance or delay. (Para 28.2)

**MINUTES
XXII
TWENTY SECOND MEETING**

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 31st March 2005, in Committee Room 139, First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi ¾ *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

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

LOK SABHA

7. Shri Basudeb Barman
8. Shri Hari Sinh Chavda
9. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
10. Shri Ramswarup Koli
11. Shri Manjunath Kunnur
12. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
13. Shri Manoj Kumar
14. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
15. Shri Krishna Murari Moghe
16. Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Rengepatil
17. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
18. Shri Tufani Saroj
19. Smt. P. Satheedevi
20. Shri A.R. Shaheen
21. Smt. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar
22. Shri K. Virupaxappa
23. Shri Devendra Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Smt Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Director
Shri J. Sundriyal, Under Secretary
Shri Swarabji, B., Committee Officer

WITNESSES

I REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

1.	Shri B.S. Baswan	Secretary
2.	Shri Sudeep Banerjee	Additional Secretary
3.	Shri C. Balakrishnan	JS (P)
4.	Shri Sunil Kumar	Joint Secretary, JS(HE)
5.	Shri Keshav Desiraji	JS(SE&A)
6.	Smt. Bela Banerjee	JS(L)
7.	Shri S.K. Ray	JS&FA
8.	Shri P. Sudhir Kumar	CCA
9.	Shri Ravi Mathur	JS(T)
10.	Prof. Arun Nigavekar	Chairman, UGC
11.	Dr. Ved Prakash	Secretary, UGC
12.	Shri. Ranglal Jamuda	Commissioner (KVS)
13.	Shri. O. Nabakishore Singh	Director (NVS)
14.	Shri M.C. Pant	Chairman (NIOS)
15.	Shri Arvind Suri	Director (NS)
16.	Prof. H.P. Dixit,	Chairman, AICTE and Vice Chancellor (IGNOU)
17.	Shri Ashok Ganguly	Chairman, CBSE
18.	Prof. M. Mukhopadhyay	Director (NIEPA)

II x x x

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Secretary and other representatives of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education and asked the Secretary to make brief presentation on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department. The Members then sought clarifications, which the Secretary and the officials of the Department replied.

The witnesses then withdrew.

3. The Committee, thereafter, adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

4. x x x

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

5. The Committee then adjourned at 6.30 p.m.

xxx relates to other matters

**XXIV
TWENTY FOURTH MEETING**

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, the 20th April 2005, in Room no. 63, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi $\frac{3}{4}$ *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah
3. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
4. Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey
5. Shri Uday Pratap Singh

LOK SABHA

6. Shri Basudeb Barman
7. Shri Hari Sinh Chavda
8. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
9. Shri Ramswarup Koli
10. Shri Manjunath Kunnur
11. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
12. Dr. Thokchom Meinya

