

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

HUNDRED SIXTY –EIGHTH REPORT ON

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 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 13TH DECEMBER, 2005)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2005)
RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
DECEMBER, 2005/ AGRAHAYANA, 1927 (SAKA)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2005-06)

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi ¾ *Chairman*

MEMBERS RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah
3. *Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik
4. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
5. **Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey
6. ^ Shrimati Brinda Karat
7. Shri S. Anbalagan
8. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
9. Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani
10. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

11. Shri Anil Dhirubhai Ambani

LOK SABHA

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

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*nominated *w.e.f.* 23.8.2005

** Ceased to be a member of the Committee on expiry of her term in Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 18th August, 2005

^nominated *w.e.f.* 25.9.2005

(i)

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 Sixty Eighth Report of the Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Hundred Fifty Ninth Report on 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 Hundred Fifty Ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 21st April, 2005. Replies of the Government to the recommendations/observations contained in the Report, were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 8th December, 2005.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 8th December, 2005.

NEW DELHI;

VAYALAR RAVI

December 8, 2005
Agrahayana 17, 1927, (Saka)

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

REPORT

The Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in its One Hundred-Fifty Ninth Report on 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. Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of the recommendations contained in the Report. They have been categorized as follows:-

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: 2.10, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, 9.3, 9.4, 9.6, 9.8, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 13.2, 14.3, 20.2, 20.4, 21.2
 (Chapter I) Total- 28
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: 2.4, 9.2, 11.4, 11.6, 11.8, 12.3, 15.3, 16, 17.2, 17.4, 18.1, 18.2, 18.3, 18.4, 19.3, 24, 25.4, 25.5, 26.7, 26.8, 26.9, 27.3, 27.4, 27.5, 28.1, 28.2
 (Chapter II) Total- 26
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3.2, 6.4, 6.5, 7.3, 8.2, 8.3, 9.5, 11.7, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 14.2, 22.4, 23
 (Chapter-III) Total- 19
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited—
 (Chapter – IV) Total- Nil

CHAPTER-I

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

II BUDGETARY ALLOCATION OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 2004-05 allocations. The Department should take all the required steps for optimum and judicious utilization of funds allocated for 2005-06. The Department should desist from undertaking last minute spending. Expenditure should be more or less evenly in all the quarters of the year.

ACTION TAKEN:

The comments of the Parliamentary Standing Committee have been noted for compliance. All efforts will be made to ensure even spread of expenditure during 2005-06.

IV NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & TRAINING

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Care will be taken that initiatives proposed by NCERT do not suffer due to lack of funds. After a mid term appraisal of requirement of funds, the additional requirement of funds will be met at the RE stage.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Plan fund of Rs. 17.10 crores in respect of NCERT were fully utilized by the end of the financial year 2004-05. Further, NCERT has assured that during the Tenth Plan, physical and financial targets will be fully achieved.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

A sum of Rs. 6.82 crores has been released in the year 2004-05 for construction activities of PSSCIVE, Bhopal. As regards NERIE, Shillong, SFC has approved on 29.04.2005 the proposal for construction of building at the estimated cost of Rs. 15.62 crores. Necessary funds will be released in the year 2005-06 so that the construction work can be taken-up in the year 2005-06. NCERT has assured that construction works of both these institutes will be closely monitored to avoid escalation in cost.

V KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS****Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The existing norms for establishing new Kendriya Vidyalayas have been reviewed in the 31st Annual General Body Meeting of the KVS held on 22nd February, 2005 and revision is as follows: -

“To provide, establish, endow, maintain, control and manage schools, hereinafter called ‘the KVs’ for the children of transferable employees of the Govt. of India, floating population and including those living in remote and undeveloped locations of the country and to do all acts and things necessary or conducive to the promotion of such schools.”

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

A proposal for opening of 50 new KVs under National Common Minimum Programme and regularization of 97 KVs already established during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 is being finalized for Expenditure Finance Committee. After the approval of the proposal by EFC a Cabinet Note will be prepared for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. KVS will be in a position to meet the commitments in a phased manner.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The observation of the Committee has been noted. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is making all efforts to provide infrastructure and other facilities in the existing KVs.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 2005-06 itself.

ACTION TAKEN:

Observations of the Committee has been noted. Central Board of Secondary Education has introduced computer science/ information Technology and multimedia Web Technology as elective subject from the academic year 2005-06. Accordingly, KVS has also given the option of these subjects to all KVs from this academic year. Accordingly all the KVs in the country will be able to implement Information Technology, Computer Science and Multi Media Web Technology from this academic year itself. For this purpose, KVS is also proposing to create regular posts of PGT (Computer Science).

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Observations of the Committee has been noted. Efforts are being made to implement the revised transfer policy in letter and spirit with sensitivity, human face and maximum transparency.

VI NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI (NVS)**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS****Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The observation of the committee is noted for necessary compliance. In future all the construction plan shall include provision for enabling the orthopaedically handicapped to access the school building, Class room, dormitories etc.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**Para 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 situation so that rural students get preference. The Committee is surprised to note that despite 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.

ACTION TAKEN :

It is submitted that the actual percentage of students belonging to rural areas during the year 2003-04 was 77.29% and not 70% as observed in the Report. As such, the enrolment of students belonging to rural areas is more than the seats reserved for children belonging to rural students.

As regards dropout of students in JNVs, it is to submit that there are various reason for dropout of students in JNVs. Special efforts are being made at the Vidyalaya level to check drop outs in JNVs.

To fill up the vacancies due to dropouts, Lateral entry at class IX level has been introduced from 2003-04. Executive Committee of the Samiti has also approved lateral entry of students in class XI from the current academic year i.e. 2005-06 onwards and it is being implemented from 2005-06.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**Para 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 in 1997-98 to 78.70% in 2003-04. 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Under the migration policy of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme, 30% of the students of Class IX of Hindi Speaking JNVs migrate for one year to Non-Hindi Speaking JNVs and vice-versa. By and large, Samiti has been implementing the migration policy successfully. In certain cases Samiti had to temporarily suspend/withhold migration of students in a few JNVs due to adjustment problems of the migrated students and shortage of accommodation in some Vidyalayas. Samiti is making all efforts to ensure that the migration policy is implemented fully. Samiti has formulated clusters of JNVs in order to sort out the adjustment problems if any, and to ensure that the migrated students are comfortable. Principals of JNVs have been instructed to take special care in dealing with the needs of migrated children and to ensure that they feel at

home at the Vidyalaya.

VII NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING

Para 7.4:

The Committee noted that the number of study centers of NIOS has 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 centres 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, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Orissa, UP and Uttranchal 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

In order to reach the unreached, NIOS has identified the areas/districts where there is no Accredited Institution (AI) or the number of AIs is very less. In such areas/districts special publicity programmes are being organized to establish more and more AIs.

It is not correct that the number of Study Centres have come down. The total number of AIs/Study Centres under NIOS during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is as follows:-

	2003-04 (As on 31.3.2004)	2004-05 (As on 31.3.2005)
Study Centres	2511	2705

Setting Up of State Open Schools (SOSs)

The NIOS has been persuading the States to set up the State Open Schools. For this purpose advocacy programmes are organized through State level meetings, Regional level conferences, National level conferences and International conferences. The State Education Secretaries or representatives are invited in these Meetings/Conferences. They are decision maker for setting up or up scaling of Open School at State level. NIOS also provides token grant for promotion of Open Schooling.

VIII INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 utilization 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The CLASS Scheme was discontinued during the Ninth Plan. A revised CLASS Scheme was launched as a Pilot Project during the last year of the 9th Plan. Under E.T.Scheme, there was lack of eligible proposals, which fulfilled the conditions for release of grants for purchase of CTVs and RCCPs during the 9th Plan. Hence, the financial targets fixed for E.T.Scheme and CLASS Scheme was not fulfilled.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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-utilized—
(Rs. In crores)

2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
BE	RE	Act.	BE	RE	Act.	BE	RE	Act.
99.90	24.90	24.50	111.00	25.00	9.00	97.00	24.30	00.0035

Action Taken:

The ICT @ Schools Scheme has been approved by the competent authority on 15th December, 2004. The Actual Expenditure incurred on the ICT @ Schools Scheme during 2004-2005 was Rs.19.40 crores.

IX INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS****Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN :

The IEDC Scheme was last revised in 1992. There was a proposal to further revise the Scheme. The draft EFC Memo was prepared for consideration in the EFC meeting. In the meantime, as a sequel to a reply given for Rajya Sabha Question No. 67 dated 6.12.04 on disabled students, HRM made a statement regarding preparation of a Comprehensive Action Plan for the Inclusive Education & Youth with Disabilities (IECYD) in the Rajya Sabha on 21.3.05 with an outlay of Rs.1000 crores for the 11th Plan period. It is therefore; felt that the existing Scheme of IEDC may not be revised for the remaining two years of the 10th Five Year plan since a new Scheme of IECYD is being prepared. Hence it has been decided to continue with the present IEDC Scheme for the remaining period of two years of the 10th Plan.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The major constraints will be addressed in the proposed Comprehensive Plan of Action for Inclusive Education for Children and Youth with Disabilities (IECYD).

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Proposed Scheme of Inclusive Education for Children and Youth with Disabilities (IECYD) has proposed an outlay of Rs.1,000/- crore for the 11th Five Year Plan, which is five times more than the 10th Five Year Plan allocation.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Proposed Scheme of Inclusive Education for Children and Youth with Disabilities (IECYD) has proposed an outlay of Rs.1,000/- crore for the 11th Five Year Plan, which is five times more than the 10th Five Year Plan allocation.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The observation of the Committee has been noted.

X QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Ministry is making all its efforts to ensure that the scheme is approved from all concerned authorities as well as CCEA and will implement the same from the current financial year as suggested by the Committee. The allocation of funds would be enhanced after finalization and approval of the scheme of CCEA.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

All the five existing schemes are not converged but are made separate components under the scheme of 'Quality Improvement in Schools (QIS)' as emphasized by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance with four new components (a) Research and Development (b) Innovative initiative and projects, workshops, monitoring and evaluation (c) Miscellaneous activities for Improvement of Quality in School education (d) Improvement of Education Libraries

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

There is correlation between the name of the scheme Quality Improvement in Schools (QIS) and the nature of all the components, which are meant for improving the quality of school education. Moreover, the experiences of implementation/review/evaluations of these schemes indicate that they need modification, strengthening and more flexibility in inter-component transfer of funds to the extent of 25%.

XIII CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 familiarize 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

In addition to the steps mentioned in the Report, the CBSE has also taken the following steps to make the entire spectrum of learning a joyful experience: -

- Emphasis on softer subjects like music, art, sports and games and work experience.
- Introduction of Like Skills Education for classes VI, VII and VIII to empower the children with knowledge of the self, the environment and the society. This will enable them to take considered decisions and will also help them to develop appropriate coping strategies.
- Concept of Mathematics Laboratory to reduce the phobia for maths and to make the learning of the subject interesting through activities, experiments and hands-on experience.
- Encouraging excellence through co-curricular activities like national quizzes, science exhibition and Olympiads.

XIV ALL INDIA COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The existing AICTE approval process has been streamlined and made more transparent. The following are the modifications made in the existing Approval process.

The scrutiny of all the applications is now made by an Appraisal Committee of the Council consisting of concerned Advisors of the AICTE in consultation with the university representative and State representative.

A combined processing is made for Extension of Approval/increase in intake/ variation in intake / Additional Courses for existing UG and PG courses to enable a comprehensive, holistic appraisal of the institution.

A single comprehensive visit has been introduced for all application in various categories (both UG and PG level) made by an institute.

The schedule of visits is being advertised in advance through web site.

Representative of the Universities and State Governments are being invited to join the visits.

The process has been delayed and levels through which decision-making has to pass have been reduced.

The expert committee report formats have been revised to include parameters on quality aspects.

The reports of the expert committee are scrutinized by an appraisal committee consisting of Advisors of the Council, State Government representatives and university representatives to consider the proposals for establishment of new institutions, increase in intake and additional programmes.

XX INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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

ACTION TAKEN:

The observations made by the Committee have been noted for future compliance. During the 10th Plan period, the Govt. has approved Development Grant of Rs. 510.00 crores for IGNOU out of which Govt. of India's share will be Rs. 380.00 crores and the University will contribute Rs. 130.00 crores. During the financial year 2004-05, in addition to the unspent balance of Rs. 2.35 crores, IGNOU has been released Plan Grant of Rs. 66.65 crores for their developmental activities. During the current financial year 2005-06 a grant of Rs. 60.00 crores has been approved at the BE stage. It is thus submitted that the University is being supported by the Government substantially in meeting its requirement of funds for developmental activities.

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

No comments.

XXI OPEN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN THE NORTH EAST

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

For the 10th Plan, the Govt. has approved Plan grant of Rs. 510.00 crores for IGNOU, out of which Rs. 50 crores will be spent on development of education in North East States, with IGNOU's contribution being Rs. 35.00 crores.

The Govt. has been funding IGNOU adequately to expand its activities and strengthen their Programmes in the North East region. During the year 2004-05 Rs. 8.70 crores were released by the Ministry to IGNOU for their developmental activities in NE Region. Besides this, an amount of Rs. 7.0 crores was also sanctioned to IGNOU under the NLCPR Project for networking in North East. During the current financial year the Govt. has earmarked a sum of Rs. 6.00 crores, out of the BE amount of Rs. 60.00 crores for IGNOU.

CHAPTER-II

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

II BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDAT

Para 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 up to 4 March 2005. As per the latest figures, Rs. 1935 crore has been spent up to 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 utilized 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Progress of expenditure is reviewed periodically to ensure that the expenditure is, to the extent possible, evenly spread out during the year. These efforts have yielded substantial results to the extent that up to the end of the third quarter of 2004-05, the Department had booked an expenditure of Rs.64.4% of the total budgeted amount as against an expenditure of only 42% reported for the corresponding period for the previous year i.e., 2003-04. The expenditure reported up to December 2004 was broadly in conformity with the ceiling of 33% prescribed by Ministry of Finance on expenditure to be incurred during the last quarter of the financial year. During the last quarter of 2004-05, an expenditure of Rs.753.65 crore was booked of which, an expenditure of Rs.673.15 crore was booked in the month of March 2004. Out of Rs.753.65 crore, Rs.250.00 crore which was approved by the Parliament in the first batch of supplementaries for which Presidential assent was received on 12.01.2005 was available for spending by the Ministry in the last quarter of the year only. During the month of March 2005, the major releases were made to UGC, NVS, KVS, IIMs at Indore, Kozhikode and IIT, Guwahati, which accounted for Rs.388.00 crore. The releases made to these organizations were made mainly to meet their committed liabilities. It would be seen from the above that sincere efforts were made for evenly spreading the expenditure during the year, under the report.

The concern of the Committee in regard to pace of expenditure has been noted and vigorous efforts would continue to be made to ensure that there is no bunching of expenditure in the last quarter of the year.

In case of Higher Education Sub-sector, the total allocation in the year 2004-05 was Rs.2080.17 crore. The expenditure up to 28.2.2005 was Rs.1765.90 crore which comes to 87.85% of the total allocation. The expenditure booked by the Bureau during March 2005 was Rs.244.27 crore. Grants were released as soon as Utilization Certificates were received from the respective organizations.

Regarding National Institutes of Technology (NITs), the entire budget allocation has been utilized but due to slow pace of expenditure in the earlier period of Financial year grants were not provided to some of the NITs. However, as the pace of expenditure has improved considerably, lump sum grants were given in the later part of the financial year.

The Institutes were inspected to prepare flow chart indicating month wise targets and requirement of funds. They were further instructed to review the physical and financial progress every month and furnish a quarterly progress report to this Ministry for proper monitoring so that periodical regular release of grants could be sanctioned to the Institute quarterly and final Installment could be released in the month of January.

Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs): The provision in BE for six IIMs for the year 2004-05 under Plan was Rs. 15.00 crore and RE was Rs.25.00 crore. Out of the BE of Rs. 15.00 crore, an amount of Rs. 14.25 crore was released to the IIMs upto 25.11.2004 and upto the 31.03.2005 the entire amount of Rs. 25.00 crore was released to the IIMs. Further, the BE provision for six IIMs under Non Plan for the year 2004-05 was Rs.30.00 crore and RE was Rs.22.00 crore. Out of the BE provision of Rs. 30.00 crores, an amount of Rs. 1062.22 lakh only was released to the IIMs upto 03.12.2004 and a total of Rs. 1302.22 lakh only could be released to the IIMs upto 31.03.2005. The reason for such a saving was that no funds were demanded by/released to older IIMs like IIMs at Ahmedabad and Bangalore.

MODROB: The provision in BE for the scheme of Modernisation of Removal of Obsolescence (MODROB) for the year 2004-05 under Plan was Rs.5.00 crore and RE was Rs.1.50 crore. The Subject Experts Committee as well as the National Experts Committee approved projects involving an amount of Rs. 4.85 crore and balance of Rs. 0.15 crore had to be transferred to non-lapsable pool of the Ministry of DoNER. The amount of Rs. 4.85 crore could be released during March 2005. It is one time release in a year.

R & D: The provision in BE for the scheme of Research and Development (R&D) for the year 2004-05 under Plan was Rs.25.00 crore and RE was Rs.8.00 crore. The Subject Experts Committee as well as the National Experts Committee

approved the projects involving an amount of Rs. 23.455 crore only. The amount of Rs. 23.455 crore could be released during March 2005. It is one time release in a year.

TAPTEC: The provision in BE for the scheme of Thrust Areas of Technical Education (TAPTEC) for the year 2004-05 under Plan was Rs.5.00 crore and RE was Rs. 1.50 crore. The Subject Experts Committee as well as the National Experts Committee approved projects involving an amount of Rs. 4.85 crore and balance Rs. 0.50 crore had to be transferred to non-lapsable pool of the Ministry of DoNER. The amount of Rs. 4.85 crore could be released during March 2005. It is one time release in a year.

TDM:The provision BE of Technology Development Mission (TDM) for the year 2004-05 under Plan was Rs.4.00 crore and RE also was Rs.4.00 crore. Rs. 3.60 crore released and no project was received from NER for 10% of BE (Rs. 0.40 crore). Therefore, the amount of Rs. 0.40 crore had to be transferred to non-lapsable pool of the Ministry of DoNER.

The late release of grants under the scheme of vocational Education was due to the delay in receiving the proposals from the State Governments. Appropriate action is being taken to avoid the delay, timely processing of the proposals and the release of grants.

IX INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 (2002-2003,2003-2004 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 crores 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 2003-04. Some of the States like U.P., Bihar, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Sikkim and some of the North-Eastern States are not implementing the scheme.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Department, has, from time to time, been pursuing the non-implementing State to implement the scheme.

XI ACCESS WITH EQUITY

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Scheme of Access and Equity as designed does not provide for grants to or through State Governments. The initiative rests with individual NGOs to forward their proposals through the State Government. As the Hon'ble Standing Committee has noted some regions of the country do appear to be more active than others; however, it is submitted that this is not deliberate but only reflects the varying degrees of interests and initiatives in different parts of the country. However, as the Scheme is now being reviewed, care will be taken to build in an element of balance between the States.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The observations of the Committee are noted for guidance. However, it may be submitted that part of the reason for the apparent delay in review of the Scheme is that while Government is aware of shortcomings in the implementation

of the Scheme, it is also of the view that this is an extremely important activity and should not normally be stopped. There is also enormous public pressure on maintaining the Scheme as it stands. Efforts are being made to very quickly finalise a revised scheme, which will take care of the more extreme problems of implementation.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Appropriate changes will be made in the name of the Scheme so as to properly reflect the components.

XII RELEASE OF FUNDS

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The release to UGC and other organizations are made only on receipt of Utilization Certificate. Therefore, at times, it is difficult to ensure even flow of funds in all the quarters. UGC and other organizations would be reminded to ensure to utilize funds in an even manner as per advice by the committee.

XV NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Observation of the Committee has been noted. All out efforts are being made to fully operationalise the Council. The post of a full time Chairman has recently been created for which the Recruitment Rules are being finalized in consultation with DOP&T. Thereafter, a full time Chairman would be appointed. The Ministry of Finance has also accorded its approval to the creation of 5 posts, including that of the Member Secretary as against the proposal of the MHRD to create 14 posts. As per the MoA of the NCRI, the Recruitment Rules (RRs) are to be approved by the Governing Body of the Council. The Council has been asked to furnish the RRs and Bye laws to this Ministry for approval before filling up these sanctioned posts. The Ministry of Finance would also be approached again to agree to the creation of the remaining posts as recommended by the SFC in its meeting held on 23.9.2003.

In regard to the activities of the NCRI, the Council has sanctioned 27 projects varying project duration (3 to 5 years) so far, for an estimated expenditure of Rs.1018.69 lakh. The sanctioned projects pertain to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. In addition to this, 7 workshops were also supported by the NCRI on topics relating to the development of rural skills, education, training and research towards Sustainable Development, Gram Swaraj and 'Nai Talim'. For implementing the emerging concept of PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) envisioned by the Hon'ble President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Council organized a workshop on "Knowledge connectivity" jointly with the National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA). Further the Council has launched

its own website to disseminate its objectives and information in the field of rural higher education.

XVI. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND HR DEVELOPMENT IN IT:

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 16

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 the stoppage of some scheme without finalizing the schemes to substitute it would adversely affect 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The scheme of Research and Development is for the Institutes in the Central Sector like IITs, IIMs, NITs. The Planning Commission felt that there are too many schemes and therefore, some of the schemes like R&D may be funded from the normal plan grants of the centrally funded technical institutes instead of funding them separately with effect from the financial year 2005-2006. The scheme is therefore, presently under review and only a token provision of Rs. 0.01 Crore has been made for the financial year 2005-2006. Further, provisions under this scheme will depend on the outcome of the review.

As regards the recommendation on the National Programme for HRD in IT, is concerned, the recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

XVII VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

In the revised scheme Vocational Education and Training (VET), which has been formulated with wider perspectives and greater vision, it is proposed to have a proper system in making the policy decisions and the implementation plan in respect of all vocational programmes in consultation with all concerned Departments.

The equipments procured under the scheme during 1988-89 have become obsolete and needs replacement/modernization. It is proposed to provide necessary provisions in the revised Scheme for Central assistance to State Governments for the purpose.

In the revised scheme of VET it is proposed to set up a National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET). The main functions of the Council will include laying down policy framework for Vocational Education; ensure the development and implementation of an integrated programme of Vocational Education and Training, encompassing the training programmes of agencies working in different sectors of the economy and regular review of the programme. It shall have members from all concerned Ministries/ Departments, State Governments, Industrial and commercial concerns, non-governmental organizations etc. It is also proposed to create a National Competency Testing Authority (NCTA), which will be entrusted with the work of testing and certifications of vocational competencies and programmes.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

A draft revised scheme of Vocational Education and Training (VET) has been prepared and under consideration for modification. Appropriate action is being taken for the implementation of the scheme during the current financial year. Necessary additional funds will be provided according to the requirements under the scheme to achieve the objectives.

XVIII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNIC

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 Polytechnic is given below:-

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

Para 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.

Para 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 skills. 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.

Para 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.

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ACTION TAKEN (18.1 to 18.4):

Against a BE of Rs 29.23 crores in 2004-05, the amount finally released to Community Polytechnics as on 31.03.2005 was Rs.20.79 crores. The savings with reference to BE are a result of adjustment of Unspent Adjustment lying with some Community Polytechnics and delay in finalization of EFC for restructuring the scheme. The EFC envisaged phased expansion of the Scheme, including selection of 20 new Community Polytechnics in 2004-05, involving a total outlay of Rs. 4.90 crores.

In an attempt to further improve the funds utilization, a series of State-level review meetings / workshops have been organized at various locations in the country, in the months of April and May 2005, by the Regional Resource Institutions i.e. National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTRs). These Meetings were attended by the Principals of the Community Polytechnics and representatives of the State Directorates of Technical, which administer the Polytechnics. The Principals have been sensitized to the need to further improve the utilization of funds.

As noted by the Committee, the EFC meeting could not be held in the last financial year because comments from the appraisal Ministries including Planning Commission had not been received. Pursuant to the circulation of the EFC, the *Project Appraisal and Monitoring Division* in Planning Commission undertook a detailed appraisal of the Scheme before furnishing their comments in the month of May, 2005. Planning Commission have, based on their appraisal of the Scheme, suggested some modifications to the EFC proposal, which are being examined by the Ministry. The Department is making a conscientious effort to speed up the process of obtaining EFC approval for the revised Scheme.

As regards the physical progress, against around 11 lakh persons trained during the 5 years of the IX Plan period, more than 6 Lakh persons have already availed of the non-formal training programmes offered by the Community Polytechnics in various job-oriented skills, in the first two years of the 10th Plan. It is expected that the overall performance during the 10th Plan will continue to reflect this trend of improvement.

Scheme of Community Polytechnics is implemented only through AICTE approved Diploma Level Institutions (Polytechnics) which are under the Administrative Control of State Governments. As there are less number of polytechnic level institutions in the Eastern Region compared to other regions, the number of Community Polytechnics are also less. As per the information received from the State Directorates of Technical Education, most of the Govt./Govt. Aided Polytechnics of the States of Eastern Region have been covered under the Scheme.

The issue of expanding the Scheme's coverage in the Eastern Region was also raised by the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD previously, in its 145th Report. Pursuant to the Committee's observation, the Department had engaged in an exercise to consult the concerned State Governments as well as AICTE on this issue and a meeting was also organised by AICTE with representatives of State Directorates of Technical Education of the concerned States. The State Government representatives observed that increasing the number of Polytechnics in the Region may not be possible. However all of them were of the view that more extension centers may be allowed in the region under existing Community Polytechnics to cover a larger area.

Keeping in mind the views of the State Governments, the Ministry has included a proposal in the draft EFC for restructuring the Scheme, under which all Community Polytechnics of the NE Region and J & K will be allowed to operate 15 Extension Centres (as compared to 5 at present). The annual recurring grant for the Community Polytechnics of NE Region are also proposed to be enhanced to meet the expenditure on the additional Extension Centres. It is expected that the above proposal when implemented will ensure adequate coverage of the rural population in the NE Region, under the *Scheme of Community Polytechnics*, in a cost effective manner.

XIX UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS****Para 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 centres 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.

ACTION TAKEN :

The Ministry has started the exercise of reviewing UGC Act.

XXIV. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE:

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 24

The Committee opines that granting Rs. 100.00 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. 100.00 crores each for conducting Research & Development in Basic Science.

ACTION TAKEN:

The recommendation of the Committee will be kept in view.

XXV. MAHATMA GANDHI ANTARRASHTRIYA HINDI VISHWAVIDYALAYA

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN (25.4 & 25.5):

The University Grants Commission has sanctioned Rs. 7.96 crores for construction of building for one school viz. language and construction of a few employees quarter, transit hostel, Girls hostel, approach road etc.

The VC, MGAHV has since submitted a proposal to UGC amounting to Rs. 45 crores for infrastructure development of the University.

The Minister of Human Resource Development had a meeting with the Vice Chancellor, MGAHV on 6th May 2005 and requested the VC, MGAHV to prioritise the activities to be undertaken by the University during the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. Accordingly, the VC, MGAHV has since submitted requirement of funds to the extent of Rs. 12.50 crores for the University during the year 2005-06. Communication has since been sent to UGC to provide necessary additionality to the University.

The first Vice Chancellor Shri Ashok Vajpeyi started functioning w.e.f. 29.12.1997. As per the provision of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Act the headquarter of the University will be at Wardha, Maharashtra and the first Vice Chancellor started functioning w.e.f. 29.12.1997.

As per Section 5(xi) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Act, 1996 the University may establish, with the prior approval of the Visitor, such Campuses, Special Centres and Specialized Laboratories within or out side India, as are, in the opinion of the University, necessary for the furtherance of its objectives.

The University could get allotment of land measuring 112.5 acres at Wardha only on 28th February 2000 from the Government of Maharashtra after persistent follow up and protracted correspondence. The construction activities in the University started in August, 2001 and its Ist Building Prathama was inaugurated on 29th December, 2001. Since the inception of the University the Ist Vice Chancellor, MGAHV, continued functioning from a Camp Office at Delhi.

However, the University did not seek any prior approval of the President in terms of Section 5(xi) of MGAHV Act for running the Camp Office of the University from Delhi. The University was informed by the Ministry on 24th June, 2002 that opening of the Camp Office at Delhi, without obtaining prior approval of the Visitor was violative of the Statutory provisions. However, the office at New Delhi could be closed only on 31.12.2003 after assumption of the office by the new Vice Chancellor, Prof. G. Gopinathan in October, 2003.

Vice Chancellor, MGAHV has informed that Rs. 3.50 crore has since been deposited with the CPWD for undertaking construction work for which the necessary planning process has been completed.

The teaching activities in the University was started in the year 2002 with two courses viz. M.A. Hindi (Comparative Literature) and MA (Ahimsa and Peace Studies). In subsequent years, other courses viz. MA (Women Studies), MA (Translation Technology), MA (Mass-Media and Communication) and two M.Phil courses were started in the University.

With the approval of the Visitor a multi-body Fact-finding Committee was constituted in April, 2005 to review, inter-alia, the work and progress of the University since its inception. The Fact-finding Committee is yet to commence its work as its composition is under reconsideration on the direction of the Visitor of the University.

XXVI PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

Para 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 relation to standards and quality. While encouraging the private participation, blatant commercialization of higher education needs to be discouraged.

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN (26.7 to 26.9):

Two Committees of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) have been constituted to address issues of autonomy and financing the higher education. The reports have just been received and are under consideration.

XXVII GENERAL

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 up to 2005-2006, 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

XXVIII ACTION TAKEN NOTES

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 2004-05, which was presented to Parliament on 20th 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 28th February, 05, 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.

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN (28.1 & 28.2):

This Department considers every observations, advice and guidance given by the committee to be of vital importance for effective implementation of schemes and utilization of funds. It is respectfully submitted that every effort is made to compile information in Action Taken Note well in time and the delay, if any, is unintended and deeply regretted.

CHAPTER-III

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

II BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

Recommendation of the Committee has been noted. Releases are made keeping in view the unspent balance, Utilization Certificate (wherever due), etc. However, in the case of recurring grant, as per the GFR provision, the first installment in the succeeding year can be released only after the Utilization Certificate for the preceding year has been received. Matter has been taken up with Ministry of Finance to suitably revise GFR provisions to facilitate the Ministries to release funds at the beginning of the year and allow the autonomous bodies to submit the Utilization Certificates within 12 months of the close of the financial year as in the case of non-recurring grant.

There has been no under utilization of funds in respect to the budgetary allocation of funds in the Higher Education Bureau. The total expenditure of Higher Education Bureau on 31.3.05 was 122.89 percentages for Plan and 110.77 percentage for Non-Plan.

As far as, obtaining the Utilization Certificates from the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) it may be mentioned that these Institutes have already submitted their Utilization Certificates for the year 2003-2004.

The Department is constantly monitoring receipt of Utilization Certificates from NITs. Defaulting Institutes are being chased to furnish the same at the earliest.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee's concern contained in para 2.5 was simply to highlight the plight of the States who do not get further funds on the ground of non-furnishing of the utilization certificates. As a result, implementation of a scheme suffers. The Committee desires to draw attention to this perennial problem, which causes chain reaction leading to poor implementation of the schemes.

The Committee recommends that the Department take up the issue with the Ministry of Finance to suitably revise GFR provisions to facilitate the release of first installment in April itself and allow the States to submit utilization certificates within a reasonable time and, if they are able to spend 25% of the installment in that quarter, the further installments may be released.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 2.6

The Committee further notes that the Department has not been able to fully utilize the funds even in respect of the central organizations 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 on the part of Department are also equally responsible in this regard.

Para No. 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 an 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 2.8

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-utilization 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 2.9

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.

ACTION TAKEN (Para 2.6 to 2.9):

The committee has pointed out non-utilization of Plan funds under the schemes of Establishment of Rural University, Dr. Zakir Hussain College, Delhi, grants to institutions of higher learning of all India importance and national programme for women in Secondary and Higher Education. The non-utilization of funds in respect of Establishment of Rural University was because that National Council for Rural Institutes could not be restructured in time. Now, all out effects are being made to fully operationalise the Council.

The allocated amount could not be released to Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial College Trust due to slow pace of construction activities of the assembly hall/auditorium. The work has now been completed and budget will be released. As far as grants to institutions of higher learning of all India importance is concerned the proposals under the scheme were received late and thus could not be approved in time by Grant-In-Aid (GIA) committee.

The national programme for women in Secondary & Higher Education was under review for bringing in line with the present policies of the Government. It has since been decided not to start the scheme as all of its components were seen to be duplicating the existing scheme of UGC in which UGC provides assistance in Higher Education. Similarly, the components relating to Secondary Education were found to be duplicating those related to the scheme of girls hostels.

These three schemes viz. Establishment of Rural Universities, Dr. Zakir Hussain College, Delhi and grant to institutions of higher learning of all India importance would be implemented and the funds would be utilized during the year.

Technical Education Sector

As far as the Technical Education Sector is concerned, the position is as under: -

Support to New and Emerging Technology Areas

Under the Scheme "Support to New and Emerging Technology Areas" a "National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education (NPEEE)" was launched by MHRD in 2002 with the seven IITs and IISc, Bangalore as Resource Institutes. The Project with total financial outlay of Rs. 13.76 crores was approved for a three year period from 2002-03. The programme is open to all recognized engineering colleges/polytechnics/Schools of Architecture having related academic degree or diploma programme.

The objectives of NPEEE are: (a) to train the teachers of engineering colleges, polytechnics and School of Architecture to encourage their activities of training of manpower to mitigate the effects of natural disasters like earthquakes; and (b) to develop suitable curriculum. Out of the total budget allocation of Rs. 13.76 crores, the following amount has been released under the Scheme to the Resource Institutes:

2002-03	Rs. 4.50 crores
2002-04	Rs. 4.92 crores

The BE and RE for NPEEE during 2004-05 was Rs. 3.76 crores. Some delay was caused in releasing grant for 2004-05 as the utilization certificates from all the Institutes had to be obtained. However, release of funds was restricted to Rs. 1.12 crores by the Ministry of Finance/IF wing of MHRD. Rs. 1.12 crore was released to all Resource Institutions during 2004-05 since the allocation was restricted to Rs.1.00 crore (Rs. 12.00 lakhs earmarked for NE region was later on utilized for IIT Guwahati). The NPEEE is an on-going Project to which grant is released once a year to the Resource Institutes.

The project is expected to be completed during 2005-06

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Management (IIITDM), Kancheepuram

The Cabinet, in its meeting, held on 15.1.2004, approved the proposal of MHRD for setting up of Indian Institute(s) of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM) at Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Other consequential actions like constitution of BoG, appointment of Director of the Institute(s) and building(s) for the permanent campus of the Institutes were to be taken up. The entire action was to be completed within a period of 3-4 months except permanent campus of the Institute(s). Necessary action in regard to the setting up of Institute at Jabalpur had already been initiated and the Institute inaugurated on 7th February 2005. However, due to certain reasons the Institute at Kancheepuram could not be set up during the year 2004-05 and academic courses could not be started as approved by the Cabinet. In the light of the later developments taken place there, the land could not be handed over to the Government for establishing the Institute. A meeting on IIITD&M, Kancheepuram, was held on 26.10.2004 wherein, besides officers of MHRD, representatives from Industry and IIT, Madras were present. It was decided in the meeting that the proposed IIITD&M should, for the time being, be set up as an Extension Centre of IIT, Madras. Since the Institute could not be set up as envisaged, funds could not be utilized during 2004-05.

Polytechnics for Persons with Disabilities.

Out of the budgetary provision of Rs. 200.00 lakh (RE) (Rs. 180+20 NER) during the year 2004-05 at RE state in respect of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Integrating Persons with Disabilities in the mainstream of Technical and Vocational Education, an amount of Rs. 187.50 lakh was utilised. It may be seen that funds have been substantially utilised and efforts are being made in the current year also to utilise the budget allocation.

Setting up of New Polytechnics and infrastructure development programme in Polytechnics.

In view of national Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) Ministry had proposed the scheme of setting up of new polytechnics in special focus districts where there is no polytechnics level institute as on date.

EFC memo was prepared and circulated to all the appraisal ministries including Planning Commission. The Planning Commission raised several queries such as defining State contribution, funding pattern, reason for not providing any outlay in the 10th Fiver Year Plan and justification for setting up of Polytechnics under Direct Central Assistance though polytechnics comes under the purview of State Government. They also clarified that NCMP only spells out the concept of promotion of modern and technical education among the minority communities.

The observations made by the Planning Commission are being examined in the Ministry and the schemes are being reformulated accordingly. After that it will be sent to PAMD division of Planning Commission for its appraisal and its approval by the full Planning Commission. As soon as 'in principle' approval of the Planning Commission is received, Secretary (EXP.) Ministry of Finance will be approached for the EFC meeting. Once the scheme is approved, action will be taken to finalise the MOU with State Governments.

Payment for Professional and Special Services

There was an unspent balance of Rs. 182.00 lakh lying as on 1.4.2004. Hence no amount was released for the financial year 2004-05

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Govt. of India

The Centrally Funded Institutions are released one time grant during the financial year. The Concise Institutional Proposals are received from the Institutions, which are considered by the Evaluation Committee and thereafter approved by

the Selection Committee. This is a time consuming process and as such the utilization upto 4th March 2005 was nil. However, based on the recommendations, a sum of Rs. 82.50 crore has been released during the financial year 2004-05

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Para 2.6 to 2.9

The Committee notes the action taken by the Department to identify some schemes and devise strategies for their effective implementation. Departments reply, however, did not contain reasons for its inability to fully utilize the funds in respect of the central organizations and schemes like that of the NCERT, ICT, Access and Equity and Quality Improvement in schools. The Committee feels that the above-mentioned organizations and schemes are very crucial for an efficient human resources development and it desires that the Department undertake all steps to properly implement the schemes. The Committee expects the Department to furnish pointed replies to the its recommendations/observations.

Further, the Committee is dismayed to note that funds for the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme could not be released due to time consuming process adopted by the Evaluation Committee and the Selection Committee. The Committee is surprised to note that the funds under the programme could be released only at the fag end of the financial year, i.e. on 4th March, 2005. The Committee strongly recommends that the Department should streamline the procedure, so that it becomes result oriented and pragmatic.

III NATIONAL COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME (NCMP)

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 utilized. 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 re-appropriation of the allocated funds. It is not a good practice. The Committee may be appraised about the details about utilization of the re-appropriated fund meant for new polytechnics and infrastructure development in existing polytechnics.

ACTION TAKEN

The entire amount i.e. Rs. 153 crore as allocated under National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has been released to all Universities concerned by the University Grants Commission.

As far as Language sector is concerned, the additional allocation of Rs. 3.00 crore was made for the scheme of Appointment of Language Teachers and the funds were fully utilized.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Reply to this recommendation is distinctly evasive. Department has conveniently chosen not to comment about Committee's observation regarding underutilization/re-appropriation of funds relating to polytechnics which are primarily meant for students belonging to poor and middle class sections of the society; details about which have not been provided. Such non-utilization would defeat the purpose and spirit of Common Minimum Programme.

VI NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI (NVS)

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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. 2002-03, 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 2004-05 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 therefore during 2004-05.

ACTION TAKEN:

Samiti is making all efforts to obtain suitable proposals for considering opening of JNVs in the uncovered districts by vigorously pursuing the matter with the State Government authorities. Commissioner, NVS has personally taken up the matter for achieving the targets with the concerned District Collectors/ Magistrates. Samiti is closely monitoring the matter at Hqrs. as well as at the Regional Officers' level so as to achieve the targets. Similarly, Samiti is taking steps to start the non-functional JNVs by pursuing with the concerned State Govt. authorities.

It is brought to kind notice of the Committee, that the targets with respect to sanction and completion of the JNV buildings as per X plan are as under: -

New Sanction = 101 JNVs
Completion of JNVs = 120 JNVs

Particulars of works	Achieved upto 31.3.02 (IX five year plan)	Achieved upto 31.3.05	Target	
			2005-2006	2006-2007
Works sanctioned	407	450	28 478	30 508
Work completed	332	370	35 405	47 452

Construction of JNV is sanctioned in two phases i.e. Phase-A & B. Phase-A includes construction of School Building, Kitchen & Dining hall, dormitories for 288 students, Staff Quarters (26 nos.) and related development works. The Vidyalayas is shifted to permanent building after completion of Phase-A. Subsequently, as and when student's strength reaches about 400, Phase-B works is also taken up, which includes construction of dormitory and staff quarters. Therefore, funds allocated for construction is utilized for construction of new vidyalaya as well expansion (Phase-B) of JNVs.

The availability of funds for construction during Xth Plan has been as under

Year	Financial outlay proposed (Crores)	Funds allocated for construction (Crores)
2002-03	541.50	154.37
2003-04	434.00	190.40
2004-05	248.50	177.11
2005-06	425.00	
2006-07	490.00	
TOTAL	2139.00	

As can be seen that there has been inadequate allocation of funds during first three year of Xth plan, which is the main reasons for shortfall in achieving the targets. The funds allocated is spent on construction of new Vidyalaya & expansion of existing Vidyalaya in the ratio of 75% & 25% (Appx.)

The requirement of funds year wise 2005-06 & 2006-07 to meet the Xth plan targets in terms of completion of new Vidyalaya and the expansion need of JNVs is as under:-

Sl. No.	Details	2005-06 (Amount In crores)	2006-07 (Amount In crores)
1.	Phase-A on going works as on 31.3.05 (80 Nos.)	260	100
2.	Phase-B on going works as on 31.3.2005 (53 Nos.)	75	-
3.	New sanctions (Phase-A) during 2005-06 (28 Nos.)	50	150
4.	New sanctions Phase-A during 2006-07 (30 Nos.)	-	90
5.	Phase-B during 2005-06 (60 Nos.)	40	100
6.	Phase-B during 2006-07 (30 Nos.)	-	50

Total

425

490

The targets for 2005-06, 2006-07 & expansion of JNV can be met subject to availability of funds.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

It is submitted that NVS is making continuous efforts to achieve the target for the completion of the construction works, sanction of new construction works. The shortfall in target has been analyzed and the main reasons for short fall are as under:-

1. Sanctioning of construction of new Vidyalaya often get delayed due to delay in transfer of land by the State Govt. in the name of Samiti. It is brought to the notice of the committee that out of 455 locations, where land has been handed over by State Administration, Samiti has allotted construction work at 450 locations.
2. There has been some delay in construction of the JNVs mainly due to delay in release of funds, inadequate allocations of funds. The completion of the projects gets delayed in the North East & J&K region, due to militancy, limited working season & non-availability of the approach road to the JNV. The State Govt. is supposed to provide approach road to the JNVs which is often not provided which results in transportation & other logistics problems.
3. In order to expedite the construction work project review meetings are being held regularly with the heads of the construction agencies. During various meetings with the construction agencies, it was opined by the agencies that time period for construction i.e. 15 months for phase-A & 9 months for phase-B is not realistic & needs review. Samiti has reviewed the time period and it has been observed that pre-construction activities like survey, soil investigation & tendering process take 6 months. As such, time left for construction activities is only 9 months. Samiti has proposed to increase construction time to 24 months for phase-A & 15 months for phase-B. The completion period in the North East Region for phase-A is proposed to be 36 months.
4. Samiti has been constantly reviewing the performance of the construction agencies and all out efforts are being made to complete the work with in the stipulated period.

The achievement of target of 10th plan i.e. sanctioning of 100 new Vidyalayas and completion of 120 Vidyalayas shall depend upon availability of funds. The Committee observes that there is wide gap between the targets set for sanction of new JNVs and works completion of JNVs during the first three years of Tenth Plan. Out of 101 new JNVs proposed to be sanctioned, only 43 could be sanctioned during the first three years of Tenth Plan, and out of 120 JNVs targeted to be completed, only 38 could be completed during this period. The Committee has little hope so far achievement of Tenth Plan targets during the remaining two years of the plan period. Response of the Department also indicates that they also do not expect the required funds. The Committee is, however, not happy with this State of affairs and strongly feels that the Department has failed to project its requirements before the Ministry of Finance.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Para 6.4 and 6.5

The Committee observes that there is a wide gap between the targets set for sanction of new JNVs during the first three years of Tenth Plan. Out of 101 new JNVs proposed to be sanctioned, only 43 could be sanctioned during the first three years of Tenth Plan, and out of 120 JNVs targeted to be completed, only 38 could be completed during this period. The Committee has little hope for achievement of Tenth Plan target during the remaining two years of the Plan period. Response of the Department also indicates that they also do not expect the required funds. The Committee is, however, not happy with this state of affairs and strongly feels that the Department has failed to project its requirements before the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee desires that the Samiti should take up the matter vigorously with the concerned funding agencies and ensure that required funds were given to meet the targets fixed. At the same time the Committee would also like to emphasize that the Department should continue to actively pursue the concerned State Governments and construction agencies for the immediate clearance/construction of projects.

VII NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The comments of the Committee have been noted. The Department will try to meet the demands of the School within the ceilings of the budget allocated.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee desires that the ceilings of the budget allocated for National Institute of Open Schooling should be fixed in such a manner that its objective of providing continuing education did not get diluted due to paucity of funds. Implementation of the National Institute of Open Schooling and the quality of education imparted through it may be regularly monitored.

VIII INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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-utilized—

(Rs. In crores)

2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
BE	RE	Act.	BE	RE	Act.	BE	RE	Act.
99.90	24.90	24.50	111.00	25.00	9.00	97.00	24.30	00.0035

ACTION TAKEN:

The ICT @ Schools Scheme has been approved by the competent authority on 15th December, 2004. The Actual Expenditure incurred on the ICT @ Schools Scheme during 2004-2005 was Rs.19.40 crores.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that frequent revision of schemes needs to be avoided. It reflects that the formulation of the scheme itself was flawed. The Committee is dismayed to note that even after the revision and approval by the competent authority on 15th December, 2004 the ICT in Schools scheme witnessed underutilization of funds during 2004-05. The Committee hopes that such tendency would not be recurring in future.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 8.3

The Committee was informed that during 2004-2005, 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 2005-2006. 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 2005-2006. The Committee feels this allocation would hardly be adequate for implementing the scheme with required pace.

ACTION TAKEN:

The reasons for delay in approval of the ICT @ Schools Scheme were beyond the control of this Department. A draft EFC Memorandum of the ICT @ Schools Scheme was first circulated on 4th march, 2002 to all the concerned Departments and Ministries for their comments. Despite efforts made by the M/HRD, there was delay in receipt of comments from the various concerned Ministries/Departments. Based on the comments received from the various Departments/Ministries, a revised draft EFC Memorandum of the ICT @ Schools Scheme was circulated to the concerned Ministries/Departments on 21st March, 2003. Subsequently, there was again delay in the receipt of date for holding of the EFC Meeting from the Secretary (Expenditure). The Meeting of the EFC was finally held on 29.11.2003 in which the ICT @ Scheme was approved and accordingly a Cabinet Note for approval of the ICT @ Schools Scheme was forwarded to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 16th February, 2004 for consideration. However, in the meantime elections to the Lok Sabha were announced and the Cabinet Note was returned by the CCEA with the advice that this be brought before the CCEA after formation of new Government, after obtaining approval of the new Minister-in-Charge and fresh inter-Ministerial Consultations. After the new Government was formed, the fresh approval of new HRD Minister was obtained and inter-Ministerial Consultations were held again.

Finally, the Cabinet approved the ICT @ Schools Scheme on 15th December, 2004. Immediately after the approval of the Cabinet, the ICT @ Schools Scheme was circulated to all the States/UTs with the request to submit their Computer Education Plans as per the norms of the ICT @ Schools Scheme. It was decided that to begin with, financial assistance would be released to the States/UT/Organizations on the basis of the actual expenditure incurred by them on the revised CLASS Scheme. So far, for the currently year, we have received Computer Education Plans from 16 States and this Department is hopeful that it will fully utilize the entire budget of Rs. 50.00 crores allocated for the Scheme during 2005-06.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee appreciates that the Department's will to fully utilize the budget of Rs. 50.00 crores allocated for the ICT in Schools Scheme. However, the Committee is surprised to note that it took almost two years to send a Cabinet Note for approval of the ICT in Schools Scheme to CCEA after getting approval from the HRD Minister and holding inter-Ministerial consultations. The Committee is happy to see that later on the procedure was expedited in few months. The Committee hopes that the Department will continue to be proactive and efficient in discharging its duties.

IX INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Statement regarding State wise funds released to States and NGOs separately is annexed.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that while there is a progressive increase in the funds allocation to NGOs, there is a noticeable decline in funds earmarked for the states especially, for the year 2004-05 for carrying out the implementation of the IEDC Scheme. The Committee underlines the need of strong participation of the state in the scheme because they have the necessary resources in terms of data, manpower, etc. to carry out such a scheme effectively. The Committee hopes that states' participation would be strengthened in the new scheme proposed in the 11th Plan.

XI ACCESS WITH EQUITY

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The observations of the Committee have been noted. In the Scheme, it has been stipulated that the State Governments have to forward the applications of NGOs for consideration by the Government of India. However, this is either not done or takes a very long time. In several individual cases, Government has written directly to District Magistrates and sought replies. However, State Government endorsements are normally given very routinely. Instructions to State Governments are being issued again.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is not happy with the reply of the Department that the Ministry is issuing the reminder/instructions to the State Governments. The Committee is aware of the workload of the District Magistrates and at times they may not be able to personally inspect the hostels. It is in this backdrop that the Committee recommended that if the District Magistrates were not available, some other Officer may be authorized to inspect the hostels on his behalf. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that a Senior Officer may be authorized for carrying out the required inspections. This issue can be discussed and sorted out at the higher level at the earliest.

XIII CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para No.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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The CBSE has taken various measures to reduce the fear about examinations which includes restructuring of question papers thus reducing the number of questions and also to provide options and internal choices. It has considerably reduced the panic situation because there is an alternative option to which students can respond. The Board always promotes quality education which also includes conducting examination in a very professional manner. It also ensures that there is no unfair practices and cheating in the examinations.

As per the norm for fixation of examination centre, an examination centre is created subject to the availability of the bank/treasury facilities for the safe custody of question papers and also the availability of appropriate number of rooms with ventilation, fan, light, furniture, access to school and overall safety to ensure fair and smooth conduct of examination.

In the case of CBSE, the schools are mostly situated in urban areas and the students are not required to travel long distances to reach the examination centre. In order to reduce fear psychosis and feeling of being in an unknown school, the CBSE has also made it mandatory to depute teachers at the examination centre from the school whose students are appearing at the examination centre.

In places having single CBSE school, a self-centre is created in that school itself and the students are allowed to take up the examination in their own school. In the case of a self-centre, the Centre Superintendent is appointed from outside the Centre and Supervisory staff is appointed from among those who are not the employees of the same school.

Thus, the situation in CBSE is very different from the State Boards where the schools are situated in rural and far flung areas and where there are more than one school situated close by. While pursuing the present policy of centre fixation, the CBSE has been able to achieve twin objectives – (1) the students do not have to travel a long distance to appear in the examinations and (2) the examinations are conducted in an environment which is free of any unfair practice.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee does not agree with the explanations given by the Department for not allowing the students to appear for board examination in their own schools with supervisors/invigilators from different schools. The Committee has learnt that this was being done in areas where single CBSE schools are existing and the students are allowed to take-up examination in their own school. The Committee feels that this proposal need further consideration.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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 Brahmpuri, Nangalrai, New Delhi.

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN (13.4 & 13.5):

From time to time CBSE has lodged complaint against the following Boards with the police under Section 3 of Emblems and Names (Prevention of improper use) Act 1950. In this complaint it was mentioned that the spurious institutions were indulging in the colorable imitation of the name of CBSE, and misleading people & issuing fake degrees and certificates.

1. Central Board of Higher Education, Vachaspati Bhavan, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi.
2. All India Board of Secondary Education, Gazipur.
3. Central Board of Higher Education, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi.
4. Board of Adult Education and Training, Brahampuri, Nangalrai, New Delhi.

CBSE has also taken the following steps in this direction:

- i) List of all affiliated schools is displayed on the CBSE website.
- ii) Press communication to make the public aware of the existence of such fake Boards is done from time to time.
- iii) Follow up with the Delhi Police to insist on the closure of spurious institutions.

The Mal Practice Cell in CBSE is primarily set up to look into the complaints made by public regarding (A) Schools already affiliated with CBSE and (B) Those schools/institutions claiming to have CBSE affiliation or misusing the name of CBSE for their professional and unlawful interests.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE (13.4 & 13.5)

The Committee notes that the Department has not commented on the action- taken against the fake institutions. The Committee would like to recommend that the matter may be pursued with a view to ensure that that fake institutions were not allowed to cheat the public. It appears to the Committee that there is no specific law to deal with fake institutions. If it is so, necessary legal mechanism needs to be put in place at the earliest for prosecuting such fake institutions.

Simultaneously, adequate publicity about the fake institutions may be made.

XIV ALL INDIA COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

It is submitted that the amount of Rs. 91.48 crores is the total plan allocation for 2005-06 in respect of all plan activities of AICTE during the year. The plan allocation was increased as compared to the previous year as the AICTE was unable to implement/release grants under all its plan schemes for lack of adequate funds Plan head. These include promotion of quality in technical education through faculty development, research and institutional development.

The Budget allocation for the year 2003-04 was Rs. 100.00 crores which was reduced to Rs. 50.00 crores at RE stage due to unspent balance lying the the AICTE. As the unspent balance was also available during 2004-05 the BE was kept at Rs. 54.00 crores. As there was no unspent balance lying at the beginning at the year 2005-06 the BE for 2005-06 has been enhanced at the level of BE 2003-04 to Rs. 91.48 crores.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee finds that the Department has chosen to give a vague reply to a specific question.

The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendations that it would like to have a clarification in this regard.

XXII NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The number of scholarships were brought to 28,000 under the National Merit Scholarship Scheme when the amount of scholarship was increased. In order to cover a larger number of students under scholarship, the Ministry is taking steps through UGC/AICTE/CBSE to have more scholarship programmes to cover intelligent and needy children.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is of the opinion that increase in the amount of scholarship always helps the needy and poor students but this should not be a justification to reduce the number of scholarships. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its earlier recommendations that the number of scholarships and the total outlay of the scheme may be substantially increased progressively, so that more and more needy students are benefitted.

XXIII SCHEME OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Para 23

The Scheme of the 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.

ACTION TAKEN:

The matter is under consideration since March, 2005. A provision of Rs.45.00 lakhs has been made in this regard.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Department has informed that the matter of appointing National Professors was under consideration since March 2005. It would like to know the reasons for the delay and the present status of the appointment process. The Committee would like the Department to submit a statement showing the final action taken within one month of the presentation of this report.

CHAPTER-IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Nil

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE

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

II BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee's concern contained in para 2.5 was simply to highlight the plight of the States who do not get further funds on the ground of non-furnishing of the utilization certificates. As a result, implementation of a scheme suffers. The Committee desires to draw attention to this perennial problem, which causes chain reaction leading to poor implementation of the schemes.

The Committee recommends that the Department take up the issue with the Ministry of Finance to suitably revise GFR provisions to facilitate the release of first installment in April itself and allow the States to submit utilization certificates within a reasonable time and, if they are able to spend 25% of the installment in that quarter, the further installments may be released. (Para 2.5)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes the action taken by the Department to identify some schemes and devise strategies for their effective implementation. Departments reply, however, did not contain reasons for its inability to fully utilize the funds in respect of the central organizations and schemes like that of the NCERT, ICT, Access and Equity and Quality Improvement in schools. The Committee feels that the above-mentioned organizations and schemes are very crucial for an efficient human resources development and it desires that the Department undertake all steps to properly implement the schemes. The Committee expects the Department to furnish pointed replies to the its recommendations/observations.

Further, the Committee is dismayed to note that funds for the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme could not be released due to time consuming process adopted by the Evaluation Committee and the Selection Committee. The Committee is surprised to note that the funds under the programme could be released only at the fag end of the financial year, i.e. on 4th March, 2005. The Committee strongly recommends that the Department should streamline the procedure, so that it becomes result oriented and pragmatic. (Para 2.6 to 2.9)

III NATIONAL COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME (NCMP)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Reply to this recommendation is distinctly evasive. Department has conveniently chosen not to comment about

Committee's observation regarding underutilization/re-appropriation of funds relating to polytechnics which are primarily meant for students belonging to poor and middle class sections of the society; details about which have not been provided. Such non-utilization would defeat the purpose and spirit of Common Minimum Programme. (Para 3.2)

VI NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI (NVS)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee observes that there is a wide gap between the targets set for sanction of new JNVs during the first three years of Tenth Plan. Out of 101 new JNVs proposed to be sanctioned, only 43 could be sanctioned during the first three years of Tenth Plan, and out of 120 JNVs targeted to be completed, only 38 could be completed during this period. The Committee has little hope for achievement of Tenth Plan target during the remaining two years of the Plan period. Response of the Department also indicates that they also do not expect the required funds. The Committee is, however, not happy with this state of affairs and strongly feels that the Department has failed to project its requirements before the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee desires that the Samiti should take up the matter vigorously with the concerned funding agencies and ensure that required funds were given to meet the targets fixed. At the same time the Committee would also like to emphasize that the Department should continue to actively pursue the concerned State Governments and construction agencies for the immediate clearance/construction of projects. (Para 6.4 and 6.5)

VII NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee desires that the ceilings of the budget allocated for National Institute of Open Schooling should be fixed in such a manner that its objective of providing continuing education did not get diluted due to paucity of funds. Implementation of the National Institute of Open Schooling and the quality of education imparted through it may be regularly monitored. (Para 7.3)

VIII INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that frequent revision of schemes needs to be avoided. It reflects that the formulation of the scheme itself was flawed. The Committee is dismayed to note that even after the revision and approval by the competent authority on 15th December, 2004 the ICT in Schools scheme witnessed underutilization of funds during 2004-05. The Committee hopes that such tendency would not be recurring in future. (Para 8.2)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee appreciates that the Department's will to fully utilize the budget of Rs. 50.00 crores allocated for the ICT in Schools Scheme. However, the Committee is surprised to note that it took almost two years to send a Cabinet Note for approval of the ICT in Schools Scheme to CCEA after getting approval from the HRD Minister and holding inter-Ministerial consultations. The Committee is happy to see that later on the procedure was expedited in few months. The Committee hopes that the Department will continue to be proactive and efficient in discharging its duties. The Committee hopes that such tendency would not be recurring in future. (Para 8.3)

IX INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (IEDC)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that while there is a progressive increase in the funds allocation to NGOs, there is a noticeable decline in funds earmarked for the states especially, for the year 2004-05 for carrying out the implementation of the IEDC Scheme. The Committee underlines the need of strong participation of the state in the scheme because they have the necessary resources in terms of data, manpower, etc. to carry out such a scheme effectively. The Committee hopes that states' participation would be strengthened in the new scheme proposed in the 11th Plan. (Para 9.5)

XI ACCESS WITH EQUITY

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is not happy with the reply of the Department that the Ministry is issuing the reminder/instructions to the State Governments. The Committee is aware of the workload of the District Magistrates and at times they may not be able to personally inspect the hostels. It is in this backdrop that the Committee recommended that if the District Magistrates were not available, some other Officer may be authorized to inspect the hostels on his behalf. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that a Senior Officer may be authorized for carrying out the required inspections. This issue can be discussed and sorted out at the higher level at the earliest. (Para 11.7)

XIII CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee does not agree with the explanations given by the Department for not allowing the students to appear for board examination in their own schools with supervisors/invigilators from different schools. The Committee has learnt that this was being done in areas where single CBSE schools are existing and the students are allowed to take-up examination in their own school. The Committee feels that this proposal need further consideration. (Para 13.3)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that the Department has not commented on the action- taken against the fake institutions. The Committee would like to recommend that the matter may be pursued with a view to ensure that that fake institutions were not allowed to cheat the public. It appears to the Committee that there is no specific law to deal with fake institutions. If it is so, necessary legal mechanism needs to be put in place at the earliest for prosecuting such fake institutions. Simultaneously, adequate publicity about the fake institutions may be made. (Para 13.4 & 13.5)

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COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee finds that the Department has chosen to give a vague reply to a specific question.

The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendations that it would like to have a clarification in this regard. (Para 14.2)

XXII NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is of the opinion that increase in the amount of scholarship always helps the needy and poor students but this should not be a justification to reduce the number of scholarships. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its earlier recommendations that the number of scholarships and the total outlay of the scheme may be substantially increased progressively, so that more and more needy students are benefited. (Para 22.4)

XXIII SCHEME OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Department has informed that the matter of appointing National Professors was under consideration since March 2005. It would like to know the reasons for the delay and the present status of the appointment process. The Committee would like the Department to submit a statement showing the final action taken within one month of the presentation of this report. (Para 23)

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

VIII

EIGHTH MEETING

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, the 8th December, 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. Smt. Brinda Karat
4. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

LOK SABHA

5. Shri Basudeb Barman
6. Shri R. L. Jalappa
7. Shri Manoj Kumar
8. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
9. Shri Krishna Murari Moghe
10. Shri M. Rajamohan Reddy
11. Shri A.R. Shaheen

SECRETARIAT

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

2. The Committee took up for consideration the 168th Action Taken Report on the recommendation/observation contained in the 159th report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education. The Committee adopted the report with some modifications.

3. x x x

4. The Committee decided that the Reports may be presented to the Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, the 13th December, 2005. The Committee authorized the Chairman, and in his absence, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary to present the Reports in the Rajya Sabha and Shri Basudeb Barman and in his absence Dr. Thokchom Meinya to lay the Reports in the Lok Sabha.

5. The Committee, then, adjourned at 10.55 a.m. to meet again at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 14th December, 2005.

xxx relates to other matter.