

# PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

## RAJYA SABHA

### DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT HUNDRED NINETY-THIRD REPORT

ON

### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2007-2008 (DEMAND NO. 57) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007)

(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

APRIL, 2007/VAISAKHA, 1929 (SAKA)

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#### COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON HRD (2006-07)

- |                          |   |                 |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Shri Janardan Dwivedi | ¾ | <i>Chairman</i> |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|

#### RAJYA SABHA MEMBERS

2. Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah
3. Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik
4. Shri Vijay Kumar Rupani
5. Shri Laxminarayan Sharma
6. Smt. Brinda Karat
7. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
1. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary
2. Smt. Supriya Sule
3. Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran

#### LOK SABHA

4. Shri Ashok Argal
5. Shri Basudeb Barman
6. Shri Harishchandra Chavan
7. Shri Harisinh Chavda
8. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
9. Shri Ramswaroop Koli
10. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar

11. Smt. Nivedita Sambhajirao Mane
12. Smt. Archana Nayak
13. Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
14. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
15. Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh
16. Shri Chengara Surendran
17. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
18. Shri K. Virupakshappa
19. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
20. Shri Francis K. George
21. Shri Anantkumar Hegde
22. Shri Rahul Gandhi
23. Dr. Ram Lakhani Singh
24. Shri Abu Hasem Khan Chowdhury

#### **SECRETARIAT**

Shri N.C. Joshi, Additional Secretary  
 Smt. Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary  
 Shri N.K. Singh, Director  
 Shri Vimal Kumar, Under Secretary  
 Shri Swarabji, B., Committee 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 Ninety-third Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (Demand No.57) of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2007-2008.

2. The Committee considered the various documents and relevant papers received from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and also heard the Secretary and other Officials of that Department on the said Demands for Grants in its meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007.

**NEW DELHI;**

**April 18, 2007**

**Chaitra 28, 1929 (Saka)**

**JANARDAN DWIVEDI**

**Chairman,**

**Department-related Parliamentary  
 Standing Committee on**

**Human Resource Development**

### **REPORT**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The system of education in India has broadly been divided into three categories: elementary education, secondary education and higher education. Prior to 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2006, these three categories were being looked after by two Departments under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The Department of School Education & Literacy was in-charge of elementary education and the Department of Secondary & Higher Education looked after the secondary and higher education components. However, following amendments to Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the Departments have been renamed as 'Department of School Education & Literacy' and 'Department of Higher Education'. Thus, the component of secondary education has now been transferred (from the erstwhile Department of Secondary & Higher Education) to the present Department of School Education & Literacy. This Report deals with the Demands for Grants, 2007-08, pertaining to the Department of Higher Education. Broadly, the functions of the Department of Higher Education are to evolve educational policy in all its aspects and to coordinate and determine standards in higher education including research. The Department is also entrusted with the responsibility to expand and develop technical education; to improve quality of textbooks; to administer scholarships and other schemes; to foster and encourage studies and research in Sanskrit and other classical languages and to coordinate its functions with the programmes of assistance and other activities of UNESCO.

1.2 The Department's mission is to provide access to relevant and good quality higher education in an equitable manner. The aim of the Department is to increase enrolment in higher education from nearly 10 per cent of the population in the relevant age

group at present, to 15 per cent by the end of the 11 Five Year Plan.

## II. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

2.1 The public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 were 3.68 and 3.72 respectively. The Central Government's Budgetary allocation on education as a percentage of GDP were 0.56 per cent and 0.73 per cent for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The break-up of Central Plan expenditure as a percentage of GDP for Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education sectors for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 were as follows:-

Sectors	Expenditure	2004-05		2005-06	
		Expenditure as percentage of GDP	Expenditure	Expenditure as percentage of GDP	Expenditure
Elementary Education	7710.18	0.27	11787.74	0.37	
Secondary Education	652.29	0.02	810.65	0.03	
Higher Education	810.65	0.03	843.58	0.03	
Total	9173.12	0.32	13441.97	0.43	

2.2. As regards Higher Education, out of the total Government of India budget of Rs.6,80,521 crore for the year 2007-08 (plan and non-plan), allocation for the Department of Higher Education is to the tune of Rs.9,209.50 crore. The budget provision for Higher Education constitutes 28.47 per cent of the total budget for education sector and it comes to 1.35 per cent of the total budget of the Government of India. The Committee is of the considered opinion that the Department should strive to achieve the ideal of allocating six per cent of the GDP for education.

2.3 The Secretary, Department of Higher Education in his presentation before the Committee gave an overview of the programmes as well as functioning of the Department during 2006-07 apart from those proposed for the year 2007-08. The Secretary also presented a brief financial review of the Department. As against plan allocation (BE) of Rs.3616 crore for 2006-07, an allocation of Rs.6483 has been made for 2007-08 representing substantial increase of 156.19 per cent. The Committee was informed that major increase in plan allocation has been shared between the University Grants Commission and Technical Education sector. The allocation for University Grants Commission has been substantially stepped up from Rs.1269.80 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.1798 crore in 2007-08 and that of the Technical Education from Rs.841.88 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.2928 crore in 2007-08. The Committee was given to understand that the enhanced allocation in 2007-08 did not, however, reflect the actual requirement of the Department. As against the projected requirement of Rs.12,990 crore, the Planning Commission approved only Rs.6483 crore (including Rs.2.5 crore for work outlay transferred to Ministry of Urban Development). The Committee was informed that the substantial reduction in the allocation would adversely affect the implementation of Prof. M.M. Sharma Committee recommendations on status of scientific research and training in Indian Universities, grants by University Grants Commission for the upgradation of infrastructure in State Universities, opening of new Polytechnics, construction of women hostels etc, and implementation of increase in intake capacity over next three years by 54 per cent on account of OBC reservation for admission in Central institutions. Contrary to plan allocation, BE allocation under non-plan has been reduced from Rs.3366.28 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.2729 crore in 2007-08. The Committee was informed that the decrease was mainly due to the transfer of schemes relating to school education from the Department of Higher Education to the Department of School Education & Literacy.

2.4 The Committee observed that the trend of expenditure of allocations to the Department of Higher Education during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan has been as under :-

[Figure in crore of Rupees]

Year	Budget Estimate			Revised Estimates			Actual Expenditure			% with Revised Estimate		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2002-2003	2124.25	2762.61	4886.86	1942.33	2789.61	4731.94	1909	2704.96	4613.96	98.28	96.97	97.51

2003-2004	2124.15	2832.40	4956.55	2000.00	2832.40	4832.40	1938.19	2802.11	4740.30	96.91	98.93	98.09
2004-2005	2224.15	2833.24	5057.39	2224.15	3000.00	5224.15	2187.03	2973.59	5160.62	98.33	99.12	98.78
2005-2006	2710.50	3090.00	5800.50	2510.00	3290.00	5800.00	2561.38	3267.10	5828.48	102.05	99.30	100.49
2006-2007 (upto Dec, 06)	3616.00	3366.28	6982.28	3616.00	3500.00	7116.00	2336.37	2500.30	4836.67	64.61	71.44	67.97

2.5 A closer scrutiny of the table reveals that during the first four years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period, plan allocations have invariably been reduced at the RE stage substantially or marginally barring in the year 2004-05 and even this reduced provision could not be utilized fully except during 2005-06. The Committee notes that against the RE Plan allocation of Rs.3616 crore in 2006-07, expenditure reported upto December, 2006 was Rs.2336.37 crore and Rs.3054.46 crore upto February, 2007. The Secretary in his presentation before the Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 informed the Committee that approximately 99.44 per cent of the Plan allocations made to the Department had been utilized. However, the Department could spend a total of Rs.1279.63 crore in the last quarter of 2006-07 of which Rs.561.54 crore was spent during the last month of the fiscal 2006-07. The Committee is perturbed to note the last minute expenditure against which it has time and again been expressing its objections. The Committee, therefore, wishes once again to emphasize that the Department should avoid last minute spending and all efforts should be made to ensure expenditure during the year as per the norms prescribed in this regard. The Committee hopes that the Department would make concerted efforts for optimum utilization of allocated funds in accordance with the physical and financial targets set for different schemes during 2007-08 as well as the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period.

2.6 The Committee has been informed that an additional one per cent Education Cess has been introduced to support the funding of Secondary and Higher Education. The Committee is aware that the cess would pool significant resources for education sector. The Committee, however, would like to caution the Department that such a measure could not be resorted to for a long time.

2.7 The Committee also notes that there are some schemes which have become difficult to implement/monitor from the Centre, resulting in their poor implementation, monitoring, etc. The Committee has been given to understand that such schemes are proposed to be revised for more effective implementation during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Committee is of the view that the reviews and consultations with the States as well as the Planning Commission may be carried out at the earliest so that these schemes are not held up for long time due to the delay in decision-making process.

### III. UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

#### 3.1 UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

3.1.1 UGC was established under an Act of Parliament in 1956 for the purpose of coordination, determination and maintenance of standard of university education. The Act empowers the Commission, among other things, to allocate and disburse grants to universities for their maintenance and development and to establish and operate Inter-University Centres. As per information made available to the Committee, presently there are 24 Central Universities, 228 State Universities and 109 Deemed Universities in the country. Besides these, there are 18,064 colleges, of which 1902 are exclusively for women. To improve quality of undergraduate education, 249 colleges have been identified as 'autonomous colleges' till date.

3.1.2 The budget allocation for UGC during 2006-07 RE was Rs.1139.47 crore (excluding the NER component) under plan and Rs.1560.70 crore under non-plan, making a total allocation of Rs.2700.17 crore. The proposed allocation for 2007-08 for UGC (excluding the NER component of Rs. 249.23 crore) is Rs.2124.77 crore under the plan component and Rs.1638.75 crore under the non-plan component, totaling to Rs.3763.52 crore. The Committee has been informed that out of an increase Rs. 1063.35 crore in 2007-08 over the previous year, Rs. 576 crore would be utilized for meeting the requirement of Central Universities mainly for expansion in capacity of intake recommended by the Oversight Committee. The remaining amount would be utilized mainly for development assistance by the UGC to the State Universities for improving quality and upgrading facilities. Rs.100 crore is to be given to each of the three oldest universities of Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta on the completion of their 150 years and Rs. 75 crore to engineering faculties identified in five State Universities to bring them to the level of IITs.

3.1.3 The Committee welcomes the increased allocation for the University Sector. The Committee appreciates the allocation of Rs.100 crore each to the three Universities which are completing 150 years. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should pursue with the Universities to ensure that Rs.100 crore allocation is utilized only for the purposes it is being given. A time bound plan and schedule may be chalked out to utilize the money.

3.1.4 Committee's attention has been drawn by the discouraging achievement level in some of the physical targets set for

the Tenth Plan as indicated below :-

Physical Targets

Short fall in Achievements

Assistance to Colleges (4811)	3835 Colleges
Assistance to Autonomous Colleges (234)	178 Colleges
Assistance to Universities with potential for excellence (21)	1 University
Assistance to Colleges with potential for excellence (97)	47 Colleges
Major/Minor Research Projects in Science and Technology (3004)	1046 Projects
Research Projects in Humanities and Social Science (11,000)	8556 Projects
Assistance to Colleges located in backward districts (404 Colleges)	114 Colleges
Remedial Coaching for disadvantaged minority groups (78)	25 Universities

3.1.5 The Committee strongly feels that such a high level of shortfall, that too in such vital areas needs to be reviewed in detail so that corrective measures can be initiated well in advance. The Committee hopes that the Department must have initiated such an exercise already. If not, it may be expedited as the Eleventh Plan has already begun.

### 3.1.1 OPENING OF NEW UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES

3.1.1.1 The Committee notes that the Department aims to increase enrolment in higher education from 10 per cent at present, to 15 per cent by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

3.1.1.2 To a query as to what the Department proposed to do with regard to the finding of the Knowledge Commission that the country needed 1500 new Universities to be able to achieve the 15 per cent enrolment target, the Committee was informed that the findings of the Knowledge Commission were worthy of discussion and there should be wider national debate and then a sort of wider consensus should be evolved as to what action had to be taken. The Department was in the process of having discussion with its stakeholders and based on their inputs, the matter would be looked into. The Committee was also informed that there were universities like Delhi University which were very big and which had a large number of colleges and there were some other universities, which were very small. The Department opined that the number was not very important because what was needed was that the enrolment ratio had to go up from 10 per cent to 15 per cent. The Department was of the view that whether that happened through 1500 universities or slightly less number needed to be looked into as they were in the process of evolving a wider consensus in the matter. To another concern of the Committee as to how the Department proposed to regulate the entry of foreign universities in India, the Committee was informed that a Foreign Education Providers Bill was on the anvil. Through this bill, the Department proposed to regulate investment into the country and ensure that quality and standards of education were maintained and profiteering was restricted. The bill would also ensure that there was no exploitation of students by foreign universities and there was no sub-standard degree given by the universities.

3.1.1.3 The Committee is of the opinion that the Department in consultation with the stakeholders must take expeditious action to ensure that appropriate plans are formulated and put to work well in time to be able to achieve the target of 15 per cent enrolment by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

3.1.1.4 The Committee also learnt that while the overall Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education was roughly 10 per cent of the entitled age group, the situation in respect of the backward classes was even more miserable. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in respect of the Scheduled Castes was 6.7 per cent and for the Scheduled Tribes, it was only 4.9 per cent. The Gender Parity Index figures were also not very encouraging with 0.64 and 0.55 in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. The overall Gender Parity Index also was a dismal 0.71.

3.1.1.5 The Committee is of the considered opinion that equity and access to higher education is of paramount importance and should be a priority while framing the policies for higher education in the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. Existing gaps in this respect between different social groups are alarming and needs to be corrected on priority basis.

### 3.1.2 VACANT FACULTY POSITIONS IN UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES

3.1.2.1 The issue of a large number of faculty positions lying vacant in various Universities/Colleges has been drawing the attention of the Committee for some time now. To a query on the status of the vacant faculty positions in the Universities/Colleges, the Committee was informed that around 30 per cent such positions would be vacant presently in Central institutions and universities. The UGC and the Department of Higher Education were in continuous dialogue with the universities/State Governments in the matter. However, barring one or two State Governments, no response had been received. There was also no response from the State Governments with regard to a request to furnish details about the quantum of vacant faculty positions. The Committee was assured that the issue would be taken up in the State Education Ministers' Conference scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. It was further informed that roughly 2 per cent of the total sanctioned teaching posts in Central universities were filled up on temporary basis. The Committee would like to be informed about the decisions in this regard.

3.1.2.2 The Secretary in his presentation before the Committee also submitted that 200 faculty positions (80 Lecturers, 80 Research faculty and 40 Professors) had been approved for creation, in principle, under a scheme of 'Faculty Recharge' based on the recommendations of the Prof. M.M. Sharma Task Force set up to access the status of scientific research and training in Indian

Universities and to suggest strategies to revive and enhance excellence in Indian Universities in the field of basic sciences. The Secretary further informed the Committee that the Task Force is also working as Empowered Committee to oversee the implementation of its recommendations.

3.1.2.3 To another query regarding the status of the direction issued to the Central Universities to fill up the backlog vacancies of teachers by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005, the Committee was informed that besides communicating with the Vice-Chancellors/Registrars of all the Central Universities, the matter was also taken up by the Secretary, Department of Higher Education with the respective Vice-Chancellors of the Central Universities. The Minister of HRD too had taken up the matter in his meeting with the UGC. The vacancy position in Central Universities as on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 has been stated as under:-

Name of Central University	SC			ST			Remarks
	Identified	Advertised	Filled	Identified	Advertised	Filled	
University of Delhi	45	43	4+2*	27	26	1	*Appointments made but matter subjude
Jawaharlal Nehru Univ.	14	14	13+1**	6	6	4+2**	** Offers sent
Jamia Millia Islamia	47	47	29	17	17	9	-
Banaras Hindu University	28	28	22	13	13	8	-
Visva Bharati	36	36	20	34	34	22	-
Hyderabad University	3	3	-	3	3	-	Recruitment is under process.
Pondicherry Univ.	-	-	-	4	4	4	-
North – Eastern Hill Univ.	21	6	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Assam University	15	15	15	8	7	7	-
Tezpur University	2	2	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Recruitment in process
Nagaland University	27	27	-	13	11	2	-
Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	No backlog
Maulana Azad National Urdu University	5	5	-	2	2	Nil	-
Mahatma Gandhi A. H. Viswa Vidyalaya	6	6	2	1	1	-	-
Mizoram University	23	21	18	11	11	11	-
Allahabad University	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	This University was earlier a State University. Now that it has been converted into a Central University, the Central Government reservation policy would be strictly followed for filling future vacancies.
Manipur University	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	This University was earlier a State University. Now that it has been converted into a Central University, the Central Government reservation policy would be strictly followed for

filling future vacancies.

<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>125+2*</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>66+2**</b>
			<b>+1**</b>			

3.1.2.4 The Committee, as it has been doing in the past, expresses its concern about a large number of vacancies in teaching positions both in the Central as well as the State universities/colleges. As regards the Central universities, 30 per cent vacancy is surely on the high side. This problem becomes more severe in the face of the proposed 54 per cent increase of seats in the Central educational institutions. The Committee was informed that one attempt in this regard made by the Department was to increase the retirement age of teachers from existing 62 years to 65 years. The creation of 200 posts suggested by M.M. Sharma Task Force, the Committee notes, was only for basic sciences let alone humanities, technical and other areas.

3.1.2.5 As regards vacancies in teaching posts belonging to reserved categories, the situation is quite alarming. As per the table above, of the total 272 vacancies in SC category and 139 in ST category, only 125 and 66 seats respectively have been filled so far.

3.1.2.6 The Committee finds the efforts as well as progress made for filling the vacancies in Central universities highly disappointing. It emphasizes the need for dealing with this crucial issue in a more serious and planned way with a view to filling these vacancies in a fixed time schedule. The Committee is of the considered view that more posts have to be created for areas other than the basic sciences.

3.1.2.7 The Committee is, however, unaware of the extent of vacancies in teaching positions in the various State Universities. In the absence of the availability of any data regarding the vacancies in the States, the Committee is unable to assess the overall position in this regard. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Department should expedite collection of information from the State Universities to have a clear picture in this regard. The Committee feels that situation in State universities may be similar, if not worse. It, therefore, recommends that the Department must sit with the UGC, State governments and the State universities to find out viable means to tackle this problem.

3.1.2.8 The Committee expresses its serious concern about increasing the retirement age of the teachers of the Central Educational Institutions from 62 to 65 years mainly because such a move is bound to deprive a large number of our qualified unemployed youth waiting for suitable employment. It would also discourage our bright young people to come to higher education. There appears to be no efforts for collecting data of qualified people in various subjects/disciplines to have a realistic assessment of the situation in this regard. The Committee is in no doubt that it would be alarming. The Committee would like to have subject-wise data regarding qualified available talent in different subjects/disciplines at present all over the country. The Committee does not agree to the decision to raise the age of retirement from 62 to 65 years.

### 3.1.3 UNSPENT BALANCES & PENDING UTILISATION CERTIFICATES

3.1.3.1 The issue of unspent balances and pending utilization Certificates continues to be a cause of concern to the Committee. The Committee was informed that the Department has been making efforts to resolve these issues. In spite of that, out of a total 10<sup>th</sup> Plan allocation of Rs.78329.17 lakh as General Development Plan Grant to UGC, only Rs.68205.41 lakh was released to the Central Universities during the Plan period upto 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2007. Out of this, only Rs. 43992.62 lakh (64.5 per cent) could be spent till 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2007, leaving a balance of Rs. 24212.79 lakh. Performance of the other Universities/Colleges in the States/Uts was equally dismal, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, West Bengal and Chattisgarh. The position in respect of the Deemed Universities was also not very encouraging. Out of a total allocation of Rs.8655.02 lakh for 26 Deemed Universities during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, an amount of Rs.4800.17 lakh was utilized. An amount of Rs.1939.55 lakh was due on account of outstanding Utilization Certificates. The Chairman, UGC informed that UGC was seized of the problem and was initiating improvements in 'grant giving mechanism' to ensure maximum utilization of funds particularly by the State universities/colleges.

3.1.3.2 The Committee expresses its serious concern over the non-utilization of allocations by the recipients and the non-submission of Utilization Certificates by them which has now become a perennial problem of sort in all the centrally sponsored schemes of the Department. The Committee can only hope that the Department comes out with more effective measures for curbing this tendency during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The Committee feels that the UGC needs to be more proactive in this regard and take up this with the State governments/universities with a view to devise a workable methodology for tackling these problems.

### 3.2 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES (NCRI)

3.2.1 The National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) is a registered autonomous society fully funded by the Central Government with the main objective to promote rural higher education on the Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education as envisaged in the National policy of Education, 1986.

3.2.2 The Committee is perplexed to note that the recruitment rules for the Council which was long overdue could be finalized

only in September, 2006. As per information made available to the Committee, the recruitment process is in progress. The committee has also been informed that the recommendations of a Search Committee constituted for selection to the post of Chairman, NCRI is being processed.

3.2.3 The Committee notes with concern that the NCRI set up 11 years ago is still in its formative stages. The Committee is not aware of any time-frame that the Department may have set for completion of the recruitment formalities to make the Council functional. In fact, the Department, over the past few years, has always been buying time in the matter by citing one reason or the other. The Committee is unhappy with the present state of affairs. The Committee is of the view that more than enough time has been taken by the Department in this regard and it, therefore, calls upon the Department to ensure that the recruitments in the Council are completed and other requisite infrastructure are provided without further delay so that NCRI starts functioning.

### **3.3 INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY, SHIMLA**

3.3.1 Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla is a residential Institute of higher learning in all areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, Indian Culture and Linguistics, providing congenial environment to eminent scholars and Fellows to concentrate on their respective research projects.

3.3.2 The Committee has come across a number of irregularities in the functioning of the Institute. The Department in a Special Audit Report has pointed out a very disturbing fact about the Bye-laws of the Institute. The terms and conditions of grant of fellowships are determined by the 'Governing Body' according to the directives of the Government issued from time to time and in the light of revision of emoluments of fellows in other research organization of the M/o Human Resource Development. Unlike the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) which contains a stipulation in its Research Funding Rules that a candidate who is selected for fellowship would require to furnish an undertaking in a prescribed proforma to the effect that if he leaves the fellowship prematurely in the midway without completing the research project/manuscripts, he would have to refund the entire amount of fellowship paid to him till that date. This condition binds the fellow to complete the research work/monographs. In the Rules and Regulations and Bye-laws of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, there is no such stipulation or condition. As a result, a good number of fellows did not submit their monographs and the Institute could neither insist upon them to submit the same nor take any action against them and suffered a loss of Rs.13.83 lakh as fellowship grants paid to such fellows.

3.3.3 Another disturbing fact brought out in the Special Audit Report is that as many as 37 fellows had not submitted their monographs or their monographs were not worth publication or the fellows got the monographs published on their own. Thus the monographs could not be published which ultimately defeated the very purpose of the Institute and thereby incurred a wasteful expenditure to the tune of Rs.93.36 lakh on fellowship grants paid to fellows.

3.3.4 The other equally disturbing findings of the Report are related to the unauthorized expenditure of Rs.7.86 lakh on billing charges of the mobile phones issued to non-entitled officers, irregular purchase of telephones, outstanding contingency advances and blockage of funds to the extent of Rs.200 lakh due to slow progress of special repair and maintenance of R.P. Niwas.

3.3.5 The Committee views the findings of the Special Audit Report with serious concern. It is a pointer to the gross mismanagement prevalent in the Institute. The Committee recommends that the Rules similar to that of Research Funding Rules of ICHR may be made applicable to the fellowships granted by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. It also recommends that the persons found responsible for financial irregularities and other malpractices be brought to book and action be initiated against them. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Department take up the matter with the Institute and submit a report to the Committee within one month from the presentation of this Report.

### **3.4 AREA INTENSIVE AND MADARSA MODERNIZATION SCHEME**

3.4.1 In the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, the two major schemes relating to minorities i.e. the Scheme of Area Intensive programme for Educationally Backward Minorities and the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Modernisation of Madrasa Education were merged into a single Programme. The components of the scheme are: a) infrastructural development; and b) Madrasa Modernisation. The assistance is available to Madrasa institutions all over the country volunteering to seek assistance. The Committee is also informed that there is a proposal to revamp the scheme and rename it as 'Scheme for Promotion of Quality Elementary Education in Madrasas (SPQEEM)'. Under the proposal, Madrasa students would be encouraged to continue their education in the regular stream through the National Institute of Open School (NIOS) and its vocational courses. In addition, it is being proposed that the assistance offered under the present scheme for Science and Mathematics kits would be enhanced in scope to provide for setting up of laboratories as well as procurement of computers. Similarly, the remuneration to teachers as well as the number of teachers is proposed to be enhanced.

3.4.2 The Committee welcomes the initiatives taken by the Department to revamp the Scheme. The Committee, however, notes that during the last three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period, participation of the States under the two components of the scheme have not been at all popular:-

Year	Infrastructure Development	Madarsa Modernisation
2004-05	3 States	4 States



2005-06	2 States	8 States
2006-07	Nil	9 States

The Committee is of the considered opinion that simply enhancing the assistance under the Scheme may not serve much purpose unless greater participation of the States as well as the community was ensured. Without this, the Committee feels the modernization programme may not succeed. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to revamp this scheme with a view to making it more popular and effective.

### **3.5 FAKE UNIVERSITIES**

3.5.1 According to the UGC Act, 1956, the right of conferring or granting degrees shall be exercised only by a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, or a State Act, or an Institution deemed to be University or an institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees. Similarly, no institution other than a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, or a State Act shall be entitled to have the word 'University' associated with its name in any matter whatsoever.

3.5.2 To a specific query regarding the fake Universities identified and the action taken against them, the Department in its reply stated that the UGC has detected 19 fake Universities/Institutions which are operating in violation of Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956. The Department has further informed that out of these 19 fake Universities/Institutions, the UGC is yet to initiate legal proceedings in respect of 6 of them, namely Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad (U.P.); DDB Sanskrit University, Puttur(T.N.); St. John's University, Kishanattam (Kerala); Raja Arabic University, Nagpur; Keserwani Vidyapith, Jabalpur and ADR-Centric Judicial University, New Delhi, for want of full relevant details about these institutions.

3.5.3 A perusal of the status of the legal proceedings initiated against the 13 fake Universities/Institutions reveals that in most of the cases, proceedings are likely to continue for long. In some cases, UGC is awaiting replies from the State Governments whereas in some other cases, response is awaited from the police authorities. In the other cases, sessions of stays-counter stays, affidavits-counter affidavits are on between the UGC and the fake Universities/Institutions.

3.5.4 The Committee is of the considered opinion that the delay in the settlement of the cases gives rise to a situation of utter confusion wherein both the parties claim to be on the right side of the law. As a result, fake Universities/Institutions are taking advantage of this confusion and continue to cheat the public. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to take expeditious action against fake universities/institutions under the existing regulations and rules. Necessary legal sanctions be put in place including by approaching Parliament for this purpose. The Committee also strongly feels that there is an urgent need for giving wide publicity about the existence of such fake universities. Merely putting the list of approved universities on the website of UGC will not serve the purpose. Both Department and UGC need to be more pro-active in this regard simply because future of our young students is involved.

### **3.6 STATUS OF DELHI UNIVERSITY**

3.6.1 The Committee pointed out that there was some confusion regarding the status of the Delhi University. The character of the Delhi University was different from the other Universities; it has been constituted by the colleges of Delhi that were mostly funded by the UGC directly. The syllabus of University is decided in consultation with the faculty of the constituent colleges and the Committee of Courses. Given its unique character, the Delhi University is a 'Constituent University' rather than an 'Affiliated University' as it is often referred to today.

3.6.2 The Committee is of the considered opinion that the constituent character of the Delhi University needs to be highlighted and maintained. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the UGC should try to clear this confusion and project the constituent character of the university.

## **IV. DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **4.1 INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)**

4.1.1 The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1985 with the dual responsibilities of (i) enhancing access and equity to higher education through distance mode; and (ii) to promote, coordinate and determine standards in such systems through its Distance Education Council (DEC). IGNOU practices a flexible and open system of education in regard to methods and pace of learning, combination of courses and eligibility for enrolment, place and age for entry, methods of evaluation etc. The University has adopted an integrated multiple-media instructional strategy consisting of print materials, audio-video, radio, educational TV teleconferencing, video conferencing and face-to-face counseling at study centres throughout the country. IGNOU serves the educational aspirations of 1.17 million students in India and 32 countries abroad.

4.1.2 The Committee has been informed that out of the Plan allocation of Rs.100.00 crore for the financial year 2006-07 to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Rs.4.95 crore have been re-appropriated at the stage of first Supplementary Grants for development of a pilot project 'SAKSHAT', which was launched by H.E. the President of India on 30.10.2006 with the

objective of use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the learners through One Stop Education Portal, thereby leaving Rs.95.05 crore for IGNOU in the financial year 2006-07. As on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2007, the entire allocation of Rs. 95.05 crore has been released to IGNOU, which has utilized Rs.54.25 crore as on 31.01.2007

4.1.3 The Committee has further been informed that the overall trends in Plan expenditure *vis-à-vis* Budget Estimate/Revised estimate during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period have been as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

YEAR	BE	RE	ACTUALS
2002-03	60.3	35.3	31.99
2003-04	67	20	16.56
2004-05	67	60.3	66.65
2005-06	54	54	30.24
2006-07	100	95.05	68

(upto December, 2006)

4.1.4 The Committee notices that the figures of utilized funds supplied are different in two documents. While the Outcome Budget states that Rs.68 crore had been utilized upto December, 2006, the written reply of the Department to a specific query puts it to Rs.54.25 crore as on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007. It further notes with concern that the funds allocated to the IGNOU during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period have continued to be under-utilised year after year. The Committee, in fact, had pointed out this position to the Department while examining the Demands for Grants of the Department for the previous year i.e., 2006-07 and had then stressed on the need for monitoring of physical and financial targets set by the University on a quarterly basis.

4.1.5 The slow pace of utilization of allocation and the demand of the IGNOU for more funds appear to the Committee as contradictory. Low utilization of funds means low achievement of targets, etc. The Committee is not at all happy with this state of affairs. The Committee, therefore, impresses upon the Department and the IGNOU to ensure that the projects as well as the targets are achieved in time and there is no room left for the funds remaining unutilized. The Committee also urges the Department to put in place urgently a monitoring mechanism to access the achievements of the targets – both physical and financial on a quarterly basis.

4.1.6 The Committee notes that at present, 10 Central Universities, 20 Deemed Universities, 87 State Universities (including State Open Universities) and 2 Institutes of National Importance are offering education through distance mode. On a specific query about the existence of any monitoring mechanism for evaluation of various courses of distance education, the Committee was informed that all such institutions have been notified from time to time to get their programmes approved by the Distance Education Council. The Committee is surprised to note that inspite of there being a three tier process for recognition of institutions and approval of their programmes, course materials from 90 institutions have been received so far and only about 300 programmes have been approved so far. The Committee would like to impress upon the Distance Education Council to take immediate steps for approval of all the remaining courses yet to be approved. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the number of institutions offering courses yet to be approved by DEC and action, if any, taken so far. The Committee is also of the opinion that there is a need for making student community aware about the existence of unapproved institutions of distance education. This is all the more required in the emerging scenario when increasing number of students would be opting for Distance Education courses.

4.1.7 The Committee further notes that IGNOU proposes to utilize the allocation of Rs.108 crore during 2007-08 to fund a multitude of activities which include Support to PAN African E-network; tele-education initiative of the Government of India; establishment of study centers at Village Knowledge and Village Resource Centres of MS Swaminathan Research Foundation; establishment of Rural Regional Centres in the rural areas; establishment of study centers for the differently abled with provision for adequate support relevant to the differently abled persons; establishment of additional study centers in the educationally Backward Blocks identified by the Planning Commission and the Sachar Committee; establishment of new additional schools; launching of new additional programmes and courses; installation of additional Receive Only Terminals (ROTs) and Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs); upgradation of existing microwave links; financial Assistance to SOUs; Correspondence Courses Institutions (CCIs) for strengthening and modernization of their academic activities and programmes. The Committee also notes that IGNOU is contemplating for development of on-line courses/programmes by making use of information and communication technology. Ministry of Human Resource Development initiative of One Stop Education Portal 'SAKSHAT' has been launched by H.E. The President of India on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The Portal provides access to digitalized knowledge resources to different clientele groups and provide a platform of Learning Management System (LMS) to learners. The University is also planning to

introduce the Optical Mark Reader (OMR) system for admission, re-registration and examination forms, two-way audio-visual communication for delivery of programmes and automation of administrative operations. Keeping in mind the societal need and market requirements to create growing number of employable human resource in the country, the university prioritized the development of academic programmes. The university as a policy measure is working to develop at least 10% of the courses by each school, devoted to the vocational and employment oriented programmes.

4.1.8 The Committee welcomes the exhaustive plans chalked out by IGNOU for the year 2007-08 and looks forward to IGNOU being able to reverse the trend shown during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The Committee also hopes that the Distance Education Council in its new avatar would be instrumental in bridging the demand-supply gap prevalent in university education today.

#### **4.2 SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS FROM NON-HINDI SPEAKING STATES/UNION TERRITORIES FOR POST-MATRIC STUDIES IN HINDI**

4.2.1 The main objective of the Scheme is to promote the study of Hindi in Non-Hindi speaking States/Uts and to make available to the Government of these States/Uts suitable personnel to man teaching and other posts where knowledge of Hindi is essential. Under this scheme, scholarships are awarded to students from non-Hindi speaking States/Uts for pursuing Post-matric studies in Hindi.

4.2.2 The Committee has been informed that 2500 fresh scholarships are proposed to be given under the Scheme during the year 2007-08. To a specific query as to whether there was any monitoring mechanism whereby the funds released under the scheme could be monitored, the Department replied that it was not possible to give the physical and financial targets and achievements for the scheme and the states were reporting only the total expenditure incurred by them each year.

4.2.3 As per the information furnished to the Committee, the physical and financial achievements under the scheme during 2006-07 as on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2007 have been rather poor. It was noticed that only 7 States participated in the scheme during 2006-07. Moreover, out of 2500 fresh scholarships proposed to be given during the year, only 750 of them had actually been awarded to students from 7 States. During 2005-06, funds for 221 renewal scholarships were granted to various States/Uts compared to 534 renewals in 2006-07. To a query as to why the Scheme was in such a bad shape, the Department had stated that the adequate proposals were not forthcoming from the States/Uts for reasons best known to them.

4.2.4 The Committee is at a loss to see such a poor performance of the scheme meant for promoting Hindi in non-Hindi speaking States. The Committee is not ready to accept such a vague reply in the matter. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department needed to be more pro-active while implementing this scheme, instead of waiting for the States to come forward. The Committee recommends that effective steps be taken to implement the scheme immediately. The scholarship amount being paid under the scheme needs to be further enhanced.

#### **4.3 SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

4.3.1 The Committee is informed that the Department had proposed a revised National Merit Scholarship Scheme in the Central sector incorporating various suggestions made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development with regard to enhancement in the number and quantum of scholarships. The salient feature was to cover 2% of the student population from post-secondary levels upto PG / M.Phil levels. However, keeping in view the recommendations of the Oversight Committee, Planning Commission has shifted the on-going National Merit Scholarship Scheme from the Department of Higher Education to the Department of School Education & Literacy. Finding that the transferred scheme would cater to students from Class IX to XII only, and there would be a vacuum with regard to scholarships for students studying in colleges and university, a new Central sector Scholarship Scheme for College and University Students was proposed by the Department by carving out Rs. 14.00 crore in the Annual Plan from the indicated allocation for Distance Learning and Scholarship. This scholarship would be awarded to college / university students on merit. The scheme would try to enhance the amount of scholarship being given under National Merit Scholarship Scheme. Another feature of the Scheme is that the scholarship amount would be disbursed directly to the beneficiaries through e-banking, to avoid delays. The Department has further stated that the exact details of the Scheme are being finalised and it proposes to approach the Planning Commission for higher allocation. The Committee is surprised to note that due to a communication gap between the Planning Commission and the Department, presently there is no scheme for scholarship to the university/college students after the National Merit Scholarship scheme was transferred to the Department School Education & Literacy. Rs. 14 crore arranged by the Department for that is highly inadequate. It hopes that Department will come up with effective strategies to overcome the difficulties like lack of adequate response from the States and underutilization of funds for the Scholarship Scheme.

#### **4.4 REFINANCE CORPORATION/STUDENTS LOAN SCHEME**

4.4.1 The Committee is given to understand that the students who intend to avail educational loans from the banks are faced with numerous procedural difficulties. The Department informed the Committee that banks were supposed to grant education loans to students without insisting for any collateral security. Some cases of violation of this norm have however come to the notice. The Department has also informed that the average loan given per student comes to a meager Rs.2 lakh. It has also come to the notice of the Department that during the period when the student is undergoing a programme or a technical course, the

banks start demanding the interest liability. The Department is of the view that there should be a moratorium for at least one year after the student completes his course. It is against this backdrop that the Department proposes to set up a Refinance Corporation to provide some avenues to enable the students to mitigate their financial problems. The assistance will be in the form of loans with low rate of interests. The Department has further informed that the matter is being taken up with the Planning Commission.

4.4.2 The Committee expresses its concern over the fact that the banks are violating the norms of disbursement and charging high interest on educational loans to students. The Committee in its 172<sup>nd</sup> report had suggested to have a loan-disbursing agency specifically for the students. It is happy to note that the Department has proposed to set-up a Refinance Corporation for this purpose. The Committee recommends that the matter may be immediately taken up with the Planning Commission and Department of Banking for working out/deciding necessary modalities for this purpose during this fiscal itself. The formation of the Refinance Corporation to help the needy students who intend to pursue higher education cannot wait any further in the current scenario.

## **V. TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

### **5.1 ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)**

5.1.1 AICTE was set up in 1945 as an advisory Body. It was given a statutory status through an Act of Parliament in 1987. The AICTE has Regional offices at Kolkata, Bhopal, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Kanpur, Chennai and Mumbai to support its various activities. The main function of AICTE is to coordinate development of technical education, promotion of qualitative improvement in relation to qualitative growth, and maintenance of norms and standards. Besides, funding of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) is made through AICTE.

5.1.2 The allocation for AICTE during 2007-08 is Rs. 1126.50 crore including NER allocation for NITs (Rs. 892.40 crore under plan and Rs.234.10 crore under Non plan). This plan provision of NITs also includes a provision of Rs.780 crore towards implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations for meeting the requirement for enhanced number of students.

5.1.3 During 2006-07, the Committee notes that the plan BE of Rs.210 crore was enhanced to Rs. 229.05 crore in the RE stage. However, expenditure reported upto February, 2007 is Rs.181 crore. The Committee is not aware of the reasons for the enhancement of allocation at the RE stage. What is, however, disturbing is that though the RE was enhanced, the funds utilized upto February, 2007 did not even match the BE allocations. In the previous years also, BE allocations have invariably been reduced at the RE stage. Moreover, the Committee notes that during the year 2005-06, BE allocation of Rs.91.48 crore was reduced to Rs.76.48 crore at the RE stage. However, actual expenditure incurred during the year matched the BE figures. The Committee is of the view that such a trend indicates poor financial planning and the Council needs to be more vigilant in this regard in the future.

5.1.4 It was brought to the notice of the Committee that the AICTE while exercising its mandate is not involving the State governments. The Committee, therefore, suggests that the process of consultation with States must be strengthened as provided in the Act.

### **5.2 INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIMs)**

5.2.1 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) located at Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bangalore, Lucknow, Indore and Kozhikode are institutions of excellence, established with the objectives of imparting high quality management education and training, conducting research and providing consultancy services in the field of management to various sectors of the Indian economy.

5.2.2 These Institutes are recognized as premier management institutions, comparable to the best in the World for teaching, research and interaction with industries. IIMs being Role Models have shared knowledge and skills with other institutions to improve their quality and standards in management education. IIMs have earned an international reputation for the quality of their alumni.

5.2.3 During 2007-08, plan and non-plan allocations for IIMs are to the tune of Rs.113 crore (including the NER component) and Rs.41 crore respectively. This is a substantially enhanced allocation compared to a total BE allocation of Rs.65 crore in 2006-07. The Committee has been given to understand that the enhanced allocation includes a provision of Rs.80 crore for implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations for meeting the requirement for enhanced number of students.

5.2.4 The Committee welcomes the decision of the Department to set up an Indian Institute of Management at Shillong in the State of Meghalaya. It notes that the Government of Meghalaya has agreed to provide land free of cost for the IIM. The State Government has made an appropriate temporary accommodation available and the first session is likely to commence from the academic year of 2007-08. The Committee appreciates the proactive role played by the Government of Meghalaya in enabling the commencement of the academic session of the IIM from this year itself. It hopes that the Department will be equally active in ensuring that the infrastructure to make the IIM fully operational is put in place at the earliest.

5.2.5 The Committee however is given to understand that the Department is presently not considering any proposal to set up any IIM in any other State. The Committee is of the view that our aim should be to open more and more IIMs in different parts of the country to impart management education. It is aware of various constraints in setting up of new IIMs. It, however, believes that the Department could go about in a phased manner and set targets for opening at least one IIM per financial year.

### 5.3 INSTITUTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

5.3.1 Institutions of Technology and Science primarily comprises of 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs); 20 National Institutes of Technology (NITs); 3 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs); 2 Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs); Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; School of Planning & Research (SPA), Delhi; and 4 National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTRs). Besides these, there are several other institutions which are engaged in the process of imparting technical education to the aspiring students in the country.

5.3.2 The Committee is concerned to note that grants released to several institutions under Plan during 2006-07 have remained under-utilised. As per the information made available to the Committee, the position by the end of February, 2007 is as under :-

(Rs in crore)

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>NAME OF SCHEME/PROGRAMME/PROJECT</u>	<u>BUDGET ESTIMATE</u>	<u>REVISED ESTIMATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL UPTO FEBRUARY, 2007</u>
1.	National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training & Research	12	15.7	8.15
2.	School of Planning & Architecture, Delhi	4	4	2
3.	Grants to Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	73	85	73
4.	North-Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Itanagar	5	9.1	4.99
5.	Board of Apprenticeship Training - Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur	2.25	3.64	1.76
6.	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Jabalpur	10	10	8
7.	Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research	50	20	10.25

**This is obviously not a desirable position. The Committee may be apprised of the reasons for the same.**

5.3.3 A major problem area noticed in technical education was that the seats in a number of institutions remained unfilled every year due to non-availability of eligible students. To a query as to what mechanism was being contemplated by the Department to solve the problem of seats remaining unfilled in technical institutions, the Department informed that the Central Government did not interfere in the admission process of the centrally funded technical institutions. Admissions to AICTE approved institutes were within the purview of State Governments. State Governments evolve their own policy for filling up of the vacant seats. Admission to IITs is done through Joint Entrance Exams and all decisions regarding admission are taken by the Joint Admission Boards. Similarly, in case of NITs and IIITs, the admission is done through the All India Engineering Entrance Exam (AIEEE). The Central Counseling Board frames the policy for admission in these Institutes.

5.3.4 The Committee finds the reply of the Department not convincing. Holding the States responsible for the seats which remain unfilled, tells only one side of the story. The Department must appreciate the fact that the tendency of allowing seats to go unfilled is sheer wastage of scarce national resources. The need to curb this tendency becomes even more necessary given the sectoral imbalances in terms of availability of opportunities and the uneven density of professional educational institutions in some of the States. The Committee, therefore, recommends that suitable mechanism may be worked out in consultation with the States. The institution which generally default in filling the entire quota of the seats may be warned and their intake capacity may be reduced to the extent of unfilled seats. The concerned bodies must be asked to evolve suitable mechanism to ensure that seats do not remain vacant in our technical institutions.

5.3.5 Another area of concern is inadequate availability of faculty both in terms of quality and in numbers. The Committee is given to understand that out of 2877 sanctioned faculty positions in the Centrally funded Institutions, 2456 positions have been filled. This comes to around 85 per cent of the sanctioned strength. Moreover, in the State Institutions, out of 12,577 faculty positions, 12203 positions (about 97 per cent) have been filled. The Committee has also been informed that 1462 faculties from Central Institutions and 6565 faculties from State Institutions were imparted training under the Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEPIQ) during the year 2006-07. The Committee finds the progress in this regard satisfactory. It urges the Department to continue this pace especially with respect to the training of technical teachers.

5.3.6 Another issue that came before the Committee was that there was some problem with respect to the disbursal of scholarships in the research institutions. The Department in its reply informed the Committee that the problem arose basically due

to the non-receipt of information regarding utilisation of funds granted to these institutions in the previous year. The Department also confessed to have not informed the institutions in time of a directive issued by the Finance Department to block release of funds if the utilisation of the earlier funds were not indicated. This led to the delay in disbursal of funds to these institutions. The Committee takes serious note of the situation and cautions the Department that such lapses should not be repeated in the future. The Committee also urges the Department to constantly monitor the utilisation of funds by the research institutions to avoid any such confusion in the future.

5.3.7 The Committee further expresses its concern over the development of nano-technology in India. It has learnt that there is no proper and structured syllabus as such for nano-technology in India. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to evolve a comprehensive programme to develop nano-technology as a future discipline of immense possibilities.

5.3.8 The Committee would also like to point out that in its 178<sup>th</sup> Report on 'The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2006', it had emphasized the need for extending pensionary and other benefits to the staff of the National Institutes of Technology located at Jalandhar, Kurukshetra and Silchar similar to those being paid to the staff of National Institutes of Technology in the rest of the country. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education informed during evidence that they were seized of the matter. The Committee recommends that in view of maintaining parity at the national level in this regard, the staff of these National Institutes of Technology should also get the same benefits. The Committee further recommends that the decision in this regard needs to be taken at the earliest.

5.3.9 The Committee is happy to note that the Department proposes to set up 3 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan; 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs); 2 new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) in Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram; and 2 new Schools of Planning & Architecture in Bhopal and Vijayawada. The Committee wishes that the Department completes the procedural formalities in this regard and gives shape to the proposals in a time bound manner.

#### **5.4 SCHEME FOR UPGRADING OF EXISTING POLYTECHNICS AND SETTING UP OF NEW POLYTECHNICS IN SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS**

5.4.1 The Committee has learnt that there are in all 1250 polytechnics with total intake capacity of about 2.78 lakh. The Committee however noted that the intake in engineering colleges was double that of polytechnics, while it should have been the other way. The Department submitted to the Committee that the basic reason for the existing imbalance was that the private sector was taking more interest in starting engineering colleges as compared to setting up polytechnics. Thus, while more and more engineering colleges were coming up, the setting up of polytechnics was largely left to the government. The government with its financial constraints had thus not been able to match the increase in the intake in engineering colleges.

5.4.2 The Committee was also informed that with a view to address this problem, the Department proposed a Scheme for upgrading existing polytechnics and setting up of new polytechnics in special focus districts. Out of the 244 districts identified under the scheme based on various factors, 65 of them did not have any polytechnic. The Committee was informed that the Department under the Scheme proposed to provide one time financial assistance of Rs.12.3 crore per polytechnic for establishment of one polytechnic in each of these districts. The recurring expenditure and the land along with the developmental charges would be provided by the concerned State Government. The Department also proposed to upgrade the infrastructural facilities in at least one of the polytechnics in the remaining 177 districts. In this regard, one time financial assistance between Rs.20 to Rs.50 lakh would be provided depending on the requirement of the concerned polytechnic.

5.4.3 The Committee welcomes the initiative of the Department in this regard. The Committee, however, is unable to comprehend as to how the Department proposes to implement the scheme with a meager allocation of Rs.50 crore during 2007-08. The Committee recommends that efforts should be made to open polytechnics in the entire country with special emphasis on the backward areas.

5.4.4 The Committee also learnt that scope of vocational education in the country was restricted to 200-300 courses whereas in the European countries, as many as 2000 courses were on offer in the vocational stream. The Department in its reply had stated that there was some problem with regard to the coordination of the vocational education since it was also being looked after by the Ministry of Labour. The Secretary informed the Committee that a very small portion was under the purview of the Department. The matter was, however, being looked into by a Task Force on Skill Development constituted by the Planning Commission.

5.4.5 The Committee notes that the Task Force on Skill Development was due to submit its Report by the end of February, 2007. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Committee may be apprised of the recommendations as well as the action taken by the Department in this regard in its Action Taken Report. In the meantime, the Department may forward a copy of the Report for perusal of the Committee.

#### **5.5 SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS**

5.5.1 The Scheme of Community Polytechnics was started during the year 1978-79 as a direct Central Assurances Scheme of the Government of India (Ministry of Human Resource Development) with the aim of harnessing the scientific/technical knowledge available with Polytechnics to secure Community /Rural Development.

5.5.2 The Committee is happy to note that the a Working Group constituted to review the scheme of Community polytechnics has since given its recommendation and the Department is in the process of considering them while restructuring the scheme for implementation in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. As per the information made available to the Committee, some of the major recommendations of the Working Group include upward revision of financial norms of the scheme including remuneration to project staff of the scheme; strengthening the infrastructure at regional monitoring agencies of the scheme i.e., NITTTRs; appointment of exclusive officers at the State Directorate of Technical Education for monitoring the scheme; improvement of data flow and documentation on the achievement of the scheme to enable wider adoption of best practices; emphasis on promotion of rural entrepreneurship and development of micro enterprises and development of competency based curricula for effective skill transfer. The Committee however did not find any mention of any recommendation to address the problem of uneven distribution of Community Polytechnics in the country. Of the 669 Community Polytechnics in the country, the Eastern region has the least number i.e., 97 of them compared to the North, West and South which have 187, 145 and 240 respectively. This position was even more disturbing for the fact that the Eastern region was a backward region having the highest concentration of rural population. To a specific query in this regard, the Department accepted the fact that all the Govt./Govt.-aided polytechnics of the North-Eastern region have not been covered under the scheme. Out of a total number of 29 such polytechnics in the region, as many as 10 of them were yet to be covered under the scheme. The Department has informed that these polytechnics could not be covered under the scheme since there was no provision for expansion in the approved scheme during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The Committee recalls that the Department on the insistence of the Committee had taken up the matter of augmenting the strength of Community Polytechnics in the North-Eastern region with the concerned State Governments. The Department in its action taken report to the Committee had then stated that the State Governments had expressed their inability to open fresh Polytechnics but could consider opening more extension counters of the existing polytechnics in that region.

5.5.3 The Committee is of the considered opinion that the uneven reach of the Scheme in the Eastern region of the country does not conform to its objective of securing community/rural development. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to factor in this aspect while reviewing the Scheme for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

## **VI. DEVELOPMENT OF SANSKRIT LANGUAGE**

6.1 The Committee pointed out to the Department that the grants-in-aid to the Sanskrit institutions were not sufficient.

6.2 In its reply, the Department stated that there were two major Sanskrit institutions which were supported through the budget of the Department. One was the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi and the other was the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan, Ujjain. The Department further informed that the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan was under construction. There were in all 11 Sanskrit universities in the country of which eight were being funded by the UGC. The Department was however unable to provide details of the fundings to these universities. The Department also informed that research in Sanskrit language was another thrust area. Under the Development of Sanskrit Education scheme, research projects, individuals, scholars and NGOs were granted funds. In fact, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad had submitted a proposal to establish links between the old Sanskrit texts and the requirements of the IT sector. The proposal was being examined in the Department.

6.3 The Committee notes the efforts being made by the Department in the matter. It, however, urges the Department to expedite the completion of the construction work in respect of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan, Ujjain. The Committee is of the considered opinion that fund constraints come in way of development and research in Sanskrit language. Sanskrit *granths* provide vast knowledge that need to be developed further by researches. The Committee emphasizes the need for providing more funds for this. The Committee also recommends that emphasis should be given to the development of Sanskrit from the basic level.

## **VII. WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

7.1 The Committee notes with concern that no allocation what so ever have been made for the National Programme for Women during the year 2007-08. The Department in response to this query has informed the Committee that the Scheme was formulated during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. There were various components of the Scheme like the provision for Hostel, right from schooling stage to University stage; scholarships; and Study Centres besides others. When the Scheme was reviewed by the Department, it was felt that these Schemes were already in existence under various programmes. For instance, in school education, there was a scheme for assistance to NGOs for girls hostels. The UGC also had a scheme for hostels. Therefore, the decision was taken that each of these components be strengthened under the existing schemes. The UGC runs a part-time associateship to women Ph.D holders who do not get employment or cannot have full time job.

7.2 The Committee does not accept the reply of the Department. While the Department has been prudent enough to realize duplication of its efforts in improving access of women to higher education, it has failed to redesign the programme to improve women education and allocate funds in the Demands for Grants. The Committee is of the view that a more cautious approach should have been taken in this regard especially when the matter pertains to making provisions for women. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a proper strategy and programme may be chalked out to benefit the women in higher education.

7.3 The Committee further notes that a Standing Committee has been constituted to undertake a review of the prevailing status of the Women's studies centres in the country and to assess the role the Centre have played in consistence with the objectives of National Policy on Education (NPE) and to further define their new role in the emerging situation. The Committee is informed that the Standing Committee has considered proposals/requests for Women's Studies Centre from various Universities and has evolved a procedure for considering such requests which, inter alia, includes a visit to the concerned University for on the spot selection of the Centre. During 2006-07 an amount of Rs.1.98 crore has been provided so far to 42 Centres. Proposals from 104 universities/colleges have been received for the establishment of WSCs, and shall be considered for assistance during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The Committee welcomes these developments. The Committee is, however, a bit disappointed to note that only 42 out of the 100 proposals have been approved by the Department during 2006-07. The Committee urges the Department to speed up the approval procedure so that all the 104 proposals pending with it could be decided at the earliest. The Committee also recommends that the Department should strive to ensure that every University in India must have a Women Study Centre or Department. The Committee further recommends that more allocations be provided for development of Women Study Centres.

## VIII. NEW SCHEMES

8.1 Following New Schemes are proposed to be launched during the Eleventh Plan -

- (i) National Mission in Education through ICT;
- (ii) Setting up of a Refinance Corporation for Education;
- (iii) National Institute of Study in Guru Granth Sahib;
- (iv) Scheme of Scholarships for College and University students;
- (v) Scheme of National Terminology ;
- (vi) Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages;
- (vii) National Translation Mission;
- (viii) Linguistic Survey of India;
- (ix) National Testing Service;
- (x) Centre for Pali and Buddhist Studies; and
- (xi) Scheme for Development of Minor and Endangered Indian Languages.

8.2 The Committee understands that all the above-mentioned schemes are under preparation/ drafting. The Committee would like to impress upon the Department to expedite the finalization of all these proposed schemes so that they can be launched at the earliest. The Committee may be apprised about the basic details of the Scheme of National Terminology and the National Testing Service.

## RECOMMENDATION OBSERVATION AT A GLANCE

### II. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is of the considered opinion that the Department should strive to achieve the ideal of allocating six per cent of the GDP for education. (Para 2.2)

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is perturbed to note the last minute expenditure against which it has time and again been expressing its objections. The Committee, therefore, wishes once again to emphasize that the Department should avoid last minute spending and all efforts should be made to ensure expenditure during the year as per the norms prescribed in this regard. The Committee hopes that the Department would make concerted efforts for optimum utilization of allocated funds in accordance with the physical and financial targets set for different schemes during 2007-08 as well as the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period. (para 2.5)

Comments of the Committee

The Committee, however, would like to caution the Department that such a measure could not be resorted to for a long time. (para 2.6)

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is of the view that the reviews and consultations with the States as well as the Planning Commission may be carried out at the earliest so that these schemes are not held up for long time due to the delay in decision-making process. (para 2.7)

### III. UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

#### 3.1 UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION



### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee welcomes the increased allocation for the University Sector. The Committee appreciates the allocation of Rs.100 crore each to the three Universities which are completing 150 years. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should pursue with the Universities to ensure that Rs.100 crore allocation is utilized only for the purposes it is being given. A time bound plan and schedule may be chalked out to utilize the money.

(para 3.1.3)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee strongly feels that such a high level of shortfall, that too in such vital areas needs to be reviewed in detail so that corrective measures can be initiated well in advance. The Committee hopes that the Department must have initiated such an exercise already. If not, it may be expedited as the Eleventh Plan has already begun. (para 3.1.5)

#### **3.1.1 OPENING OF NEW UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES**

##### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is of the opinion that the Department in consultation with the stakeholders must take expeditious action to ensure that appropriate plans are formulated and put to work well in time to be able to achieve the target of 15 per cent enrolment by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. (para 3.1.1.3)

##### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is of the considered opinion that equity and access to higher education is of paramount importance and should be a priority while framing the policies for higher education in the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. Existing gaps in this respect between different social groups are alarming and needs to be corrected on priority basis.

(para 3.1.1.5)

#### **3.1.2 VACANT FACULTY POSITIONS IN UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES**

##### **Comments of the Committee**

The issue of a large number of faculty positions lying vacant in various Universities/Colleges has been drawing the attention of the Committee for some time now. To a query on the status of the vacant faculty positions in the Universities/Colleges, the Committee was informed that around 30 per cent such positions would be vacant presently in Central institutions and universities. The UGC and the Department of Higher Education were in continuous dialogue with the universities/State Governments in the matter. However, barring one or two State Governments, no response had been received. There was also no response from the State Governments with regard to a request to furnish details about the quantum of vacant faculty positions. The Committee was assured that the issue would be taken up in the State Education Ministers' Conference scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. It was further informed that roughly 2 per cent of the total sanctioned teaching posts in Central universities were filled up on temporary basis. The Committee would like to be informed about the decisions in this regard. (para 3.1.2.1)

##### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee, as it has been doing in the past, expresses its concern about a large number of vacancies in teaching positions both in the Central as well as the State universities/colleges. As regards the Central universities, 30 per cent vacancy is surely on the high side. This problem becomes more severe in the face of the proposed 54 per cent increase of seats in the Central educational institutions. The Committee was informed that one attempt in this regard made by the Department was to increase the retirement age of teachers from existing 62 years to 65 years. The creation of 200 posts suggested by M.M. Sharma Task Force, the Committee notes, was only for basic sciences let alone humanities, technical and other areas.

(para 3.1.2.4)

##### **Comments of the Committee**

As regards vacancies in teaching posts belonging to reserved categories, the situation is quite alarming. As per the table above, of the total 272 vacancies in SC category and 139 in ST category, only 125 and 66 seats respectively have been filled so far.

(para 3.1.2.5)

##### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee finds the efforts as well as progress made for filling the vacancies in Central universities highly disappointing. It emphasizes the need for dealing with this crucial issue in a more serious and planned way with a view to filling these vacancies in a fixed time schedule. The Committee is of the considered view that more posts have to be created for areas other than the basic sciences. (para 3.1.2.6)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is, however, unaware of the extent of vacancies in teaching positions in the various State Universities. In the absence of the availability of any data regarding the vacancies in the States, the Committee is unable to assess the overall position in this regard. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Department should expedite collection of information from the State Universities to have a clear picture in this regard. The Committee feels that situation in State universities may be similar, if not worse. It, therefore, recommends that the Department must sit with the UGC, State governments and the State universities to find out viable means to tackle this problem. (para 3.1.2.7)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee would like to have subject-wise data regarding qualified available talent in different subjects/disciplines at present all over the country. The Committee does not agree to the decision to raise the age of retirement from 62 to 65 years. (para 3.1.2.8)

### **3.1.3 UNSPENT BALANCES & PENDING UTILISATION CERTIFICATES**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The issue of unspent balances and pending utilization Certificates continues to be a cause of concern to the Committee. (para 3.1.3.1)

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee expresses its serious concern over the non-utilization of allocations by the recipients and the non-submission of Utilization Certificates by them which has now become a perennial problem of sort in all the centrally sponsored schemes of the Department. The Committee can only hope that the Department comes out with more effective measures for curbing this tendency during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The Committee feels that the UGC needs to be more proactive in this regard and take up this with the State governments/universities with a view to devise a workable methodology for tackling these problems. (para 3.1.3.2)

### **3.2 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTES (NCRI)**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee notes with concern that the NCRI set up 11 years ago is still in its formative stages. The Committee is not aware of any time-frame that the Department may have set for completion of the recruitment formalities to make the Council functional. In fact, the Department, over the past few years, has always been buying time in the matter by citing one reason or the other. The Committee is unhappy with the present state of affairs. The Committee is of the view that more than enough time has been taken by the Department in this regard and it, therefore, calls upon the Department to ensure that the recruitments in the Council are completed and other requisite infrastructure are provided without further delay so that NCRI starts functioning. (para 3.2.3)

### **3.3 INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY, SHIMLA**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee views the findings of the Special Audit Report with serious concern. It is a pointer to the gross mismanagement prevalent in the Institute. The Committee recommends that the Rules similar to that of Research Funding Rules of ICHR may be made applicable to the fellowships granted by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. It also recommends that the persons found responsible for financial irregularities and other malpractices be brought to book and action be initiated against them. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Department take up the matter with the Institute and submit a report to the Committee within one month from the presentation of this Report. (para 3.3.5)

### **3.4 AREA INTENSIVE AND MADARSA MODERNIZATION SCHEME**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee welcomes the initiatives taken by the Department to revamp the Scheme. The Committee, however, notes that during the last three years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period, participation of the States under the two components of the scheme have not been at all popular: -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Infrastructure Development</u>	<u>Madarsa Modernisation</u>
2004-05	3 States	4 States
2005-06	2 States	8 States
2006-07	Nil	9 States

The Committee is of the considered opinion that simply enhancing the assistance under the Scheme may not serve much purpose unless greater participation of the States as well as the community was ensured. Without this, the Committee feels the modernization programme may not succeed. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to revamp this scheme with a view to making it more popular and effective. (para 3.4.2)

### **3.5 FAKE UNIVERSITIES**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is of the considered opinion that the delay in the settlement of the cases gives rise to a situation of utter confusion wherein both the parties claim to be on the right side of the law. As a result, fake Universities/Institutions are taking advantage of this confusion and continue to cheat the public. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to take expeditious action against fake universities/institutions under the existing regulations and rules. Necessary legal sanctions be put in place including by approaching Parliament for this purpose. The Committee also strongly feels that there is an urgent need for giving wide publicity about the existence of such fake universities. Merely putting the list of approved universities on the website of UGC will not serve the purpose. Both Department and UGC need to be more pro-active in this regard simply because future of our young students is involved. (para 3.5.4)

### **3.6 STATUS OF DELHI UNIVERSITY**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is of the considered opinion that the constituent character of the Delhi University needs to be highlighted and maintained. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the UGC should try to clear this confusion and project the constituent character of the university. (para 3.6.2)

## **IV. DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **4.1 INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee notices that the figures of utilized funds supplied are different in two documents. While the Outcome Budget states that Rs.68 crore had been utilized upto December, 2006, the written reply of the Department to a specific query puts it to Rs.54.25 crore as on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007. It further notes with concern that the funds allocated to the IGNOU during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period have continued to be under-utilised year after year. The Committee, in fact, had pointed out this position to the Department while examining the Demands for Grants of the Department for the previous year i.e., 2006-07 and had then stressed on the need for monitoring of physical and financial targets set by the University on a quarterly basis. (para 4.1.4)

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The slow pace of utilization of allocation and the demand of the IGNOU for more funds appear to the Committee as contradictory. Low utilization of funds means low achievement of targets, etc. The Committee is not at all happy with this state of affairs. The Committee, therefore, impresses upon the Department and the IGNOU to ensure that the projects as well as the targets are achieved in time and there is no room left for the funds remaining unutilized. The Committee also urges the Department to put in place urgently a monitoring mechanism to access the achievements of the targets – both physical and financial on a quarterly basis. (para 4.1.5)

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is surprised to note that inspite of there being a three tier process for recognition of institutions and approval of their programmes, course materials from 90 institutions have been received so far and only about 300 programmes have been approved so far. The Committee would like to impress upon the Distance Education Council to take immediate steps for approval of all the remaining courses yet to be approved. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the number of institutions offering courses yet to be approved by DEC and action, if any, taken so far. The Committee is also of the opinion that there is a need for making student community aware about the existence of unapproved institutions of distance education. This is all the more required in the emerging scenario when increasing number of students would be opting for Distance Education

courses.

(para 4.1.6)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee welcomes the exhaustive plans chalked out by IGNOU for the year 2007-08 and looks forward to IGNOU being able to reverse the trend shown during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The Committee also hopes that the Distance Education Council in its new avatar would be instrumental in bridging the demand-supply gap prevalent in university education today.

(para 4.1.8)

## **4.2 SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS FROM NON-HINDI SPEAKING STATES/UNION TERRITORIES FOR POST-MATRIC STUDIES IN HINDI**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is at a loss to see such a poor performance of the scheme meant for promoting Hindi in non-Hindi speaking States. The Committee is not ready to accept such a vague reply in the matter. The Committee is of the opinion that the Department needed to be more pro-active while implementing this scheme, instead of waiting for the States to come forward. The Committee recommends that effective steps be taken to implement the scheme immediately. The scholarship amount being paid under the scheme needs to be further enhanced.

(para 4.2.4)

## **4.3 SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is surprised to note that due to a communication gap between the Planning Commission and the Department, presently there is no scheme for scholarship to the university/college students after the National Merit Scholarship scheme was transferred to the Department School Education & Literacy. Rs. 14 crore arranged by the Department for that is highly inadequate. It hopes that Department will come up with effective strategies to overcome the difficulties like lack of adequate response from the States and underutilization of funds for the Scholarship Scheme.

(para 4.3.1)

## **4.4 REFINANCE CORPORATION/STUDENTS LOAN SCHEME**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee expresses its concern over the fact that the banks are violating the norms of disbursement and charging high interest on educational loans to students. The Committee in its 172<sup>nd</sup> report had suggested to have a loan-disbursing agency specifically for the students. It is happy to note that the Department has proposed to set-up a Refinance Corporation for this purpose. The Committee recommends that the matter may be immediately taken up with the Planning Commission and Department of Banking for working out/deciding necessary modalities for this purpose during this fiscal itself. The formation of the Refinance Corporation to help the needy students who intend to pursue higher education cannot wait any further in the current scenario.

(para 4.4.2)

## **V. TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

### **5.1 ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

During 2006-07, the Committee notes that the plan BE of Rs.210 crore was enhanced to Rs. 229.05 crore in the RE stage. However, expenditure reported upto February, 2007 is Rs.181 crore. The Committee is not aware of the reasons for the enhancement of allocation at the RE stage. What is, however, disturbing is that though the RE was enhanced, the funds utilized upto February, 2007 did not even match the BE allocations. In the previous years also, BE allocations have invariably been reduced at the RE stage. Moreover, the Committee notes that during the year 2005-06, BE allocation of Rs.91.48 crore was reduced to Rs.76.48 crore at the RE stage. However, actual expenditure incurred during the year matched the BE figures. The Committee is of the view that such a trend indicates poor financial planning and the Council needs to be more vigilant in this regard in the future.

(para 5.1.3)

#### **Comments of the Committee**

It was brought to the notice of the Committee that the AICTE while exercising its mandate is not involving the State governments. The Committee, therefore, suggests that the process of consultation with States must be strengthened as provided in the Act. (para 5.1.4)

### **5.2 INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIMs)**

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee welcomes the decision of the Department to set up an Indian Institute of Management at Shillong in the State of Meghalaya. It notes that the Government of Meghalaya has agreed to provide land free of cost for the IIM. The State Government has made an appropriate temporary accommodation available and the first session is likely to commence from the academic year of 2007-08. The Committee appreciates the proactive role played by the Government of Meghalaya in enabling the commencement of the academic session of the IIM from this year itself. It hopes that the Department will be equally active in ensuring that the infrastructure to make the IIM fully operational is put in place at the earliest.

(para 5.2.4)

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee is of the view that our aim should be to open more and more IIMs in different parts of the country to impart management education. It is aware of various constraints in setting up of new IIMs. It, however, believes that the Department could go about in a phased manner and set targets for opening at least one IIM per financial year. (para 5.2.5)

## 5.3 INSTITUTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee is concerned to note that grants released to several institutions under Plan during 2006-07 have remained under-utilised. As per the information made available to the Committee, the position by the end of February, 2007 is as under: -

(Rs in crore)

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>NAME OF SCHEME/PROGRAMME/PROJECT</u>	<u>BUDGET ESTIMATE</u>	<u>REVISED ESTIMATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL UPTO FEBRUARY, 2007</u>
1.	National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training & Research	12	15.7	8.15
2.	School of Planning & Architecture, Delhi	4	4	2
3.	Grants to Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	73	85	73
4.	North-Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Itanagar	5	9.1	4.99
5.	Board of Apprenticeship Training - Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur	2.25	3.64	1.76
6.	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Jabalpur	10	10	8
7.	Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research	50	20	10.25

This is obviously not a desirable position. The Committee may be apprised of the reasons for the same. (para 5.3.2)

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee finds the reply of the Department not convincing. Holding the States responsible for the seats which remain unfilled, tells only one side of the story. The Department must appreciate the fact that the tendency of allowing seats to go unfilled is sheer wastage of scarce national resources. The need to curb this tendency becomes even more necessary given the sectoral imbalances in terms of availability of opportunities and the uneven density of professional educational institutions in some of the States. The Committee, therefore, recommends that suitable mechanism may be worked out in consultation with the States. The institution which generally default in filling the entire quota of the seats may be warned and their intake capacity may be reduced to the extent of unfilled seats. The concerned bodies must be asked to evolve suitable mechanism to ensure that seats do not remain vacant in our technical institutions. (para 5.3.4)

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee finds the progress in this regard satisfactory. It urges the Department to continue this pace especially with respect to the training of technical teachers. (para 5.3.5)

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee takes serious note of the situation and cautions the Department that such lapses should not be repeated in

the future. The Committee also urges the Department to constantly monitor the utilisation of funds by the research institutions to avoid any such confusion in the future. (para 5.3.6)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee further expresses its concern over the development of nano-technology in India. It has learnt that there is no proper and structured syllabus as such for nano-technology in India. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to evolve a comprehensive programme to develop nano-technology as a future discipline of immense possibilities. (para 5.3.7)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee would also like to point out that in its 178<sup>th</sup> Report on 'The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2006', it had emphasized the need for extending pensionary and other benefits to the staff of the National Institutes of Technology located at Jalandhar, Kurukshetra and Silchar similar to those being paid to the staff of National Institutes of Technology in the rest of the country. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education informed during evidence that they were seized of the matter. The Committee recommends that in view of maintaining parity at the national level in this regard, the staff of these National Institutes of Technology should also get the same benefits. The Committee further recommends that the decision in this regard needs to be taken at the earliest. (para 5.3.8)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is happy to note that the Department proposes to set up 3 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan; 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs); 2 new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) in Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram; and 2 new Schools of Planning & Architecture in Bhopal and Vijayawada. The Committee wishes that the Department completes the procedural formalities in this regard and gives shape to the proposals in a time bound manner. (para 5.3.9)

## **5.4 SCHEME FOR UPGRADING OF EXISTING POLYTECHNICS AND SETTING UP OF NEW POLYTECHNICS IN SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee welcomes the initiative of the Department in this regard. The Committee, however, is unable to comprehend as to how the Department proposes to implement the scheme with a meager allocation of Rs.50 crore during 2007-08. The Committee recommends that efforts should be made to open polytechnics in the entire country with special emphasis on the backward areas. (para 5.4.3)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee notes that the Task Force on Skill Development was due to submit its Report by the end of February, 2007. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Committee may be apprised of the recommendations as well as the action taken by the Department in this regard in its Action Taken Report. In the meantime, the Department may forward a copy of the Report for perusal of the Committee. (para 5.4.5)

## **5.5 SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is of the considered opinion that the uneven reach of the Scheme in the Eastern region of the country does not conform to its objective of securing community/rural development. The Committee, therefore, urges the Department to factor in this aspect while reviewing the Scheme for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. (para 5.5.3)

## **VI. DEVELOPMENT OF SANSKRIT LANGUAGE**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee notes the efforts being made by the Department in the matter. It, however, urges the Department to expedite the completion of the construction work in respect of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan, Ujjain. The Committee is of the considered opinion that fund constraints come in way of development and research in Sanskrit language. Sanskrit *granths* provide vast knowledge that need to be developed further by researches. The Committee emphasizes the need for providing more funds for this. The Committee also recommends that emphasis should be given to the development of Sanskrit from the basic level. (para 6.3)

## **VII. WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee does not accept the reply of the Department. While the Department has been prudent enough to realize

duplication of its efforts in improving access of women to higher education, it has failed to redesign the programme to improve women education and allocate funds in the Demands for Grants. The Committee is of the view that a more cautious approach should have been taken in this regard especially when the matter pertains to making provisions for women. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a proper strategy and programme may be chalked out to benefit the women in higher education.

(para 7.2)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee welcomes these developments. The Committee is, however, a bit disappointed to note that only 42 out of the 100 proposals have been approved by the Department during 2006-07. The Committee urges the Department to speed up the approval procedure so that all the 104 proposals pending with it could be decided at the earliest. The Committee also recommends that the Department should strive to ensure that every University in India must have a Women Study Centre or Department. The Committee further recommends that more allocations be provided for development of Women Study Centres.

(para 7.3)

## **VIII. NEW SCHEMES**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee understands that all the above-mentioned schemes are under preparation/ drafting. The Committee would like to impress upon the Department to expedite the finalization of all these proposed schemes so that they can be launched at the earliest. The Committee may be apprised about the basic details of the Scheme of National Terminology and the National Testing Service.

(para 8.2)

## **MINUTES XV FIFTEENTH MEETING**

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 in Room No. 63, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

- |                          |   |          |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| 1. Shri Janardan Dwivedi | ¾ | Chairman |
|--------------------------|---|----------|

### **RAJYA SABHA**

2. Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Rupani
4. Shri Laxminarayan Sharma
5. Smt. Brinda Karat
6. Smt Supriya Sule
7. Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran

### **LOK SABHA**

8. Shri Ashok Argal
9. Shri Harishchandra Chavan
10. Shri Harisinh Chavda
11. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
12. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
13. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
14. Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh
15. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
16. Shri K. Virupakshappa
17. Shri Francis K. George
18. Shri Anantkumar Hegde

### **SECRETARIAT**

Smt Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary  
Shri N.K. Singh, Director  
Shri Vimal Kumar, Under Secretary

Shri Swarabji B., Committee Officer

## WITNESSES

### REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION (MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

- |                                    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Shri R.P. Agrawal               | - | Secretary, Higher Education                               |
| 2. Shri. K.M. Acharya              | - | Additional Secretary, Higher Education                    |
| 3. Dr. Sukhdeo Thorat              | - | Chairman (UGC)  |
| 4. Prof. Damodar Acharya           | - | Chairman (AICTE)  |
| 5. Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai | - | Vice Chancellor (IGNOU)                                   |
| 6. Shri Sunil Kumar                | - | Joint Secretary, Higher Education                         |
| 7. Shri Ravi Mathur                | - | Joint Secretary, Technical Education                      |
| 8. Shri N.K. Sinha                 | - | Joint Secretary,  |
| 9. Smt. Purnima M. Gupta           | - | Educational Advisor                                       |
| 10. Shri S.K. Ray                  | - | JS & Financial Advisor                                    |
| 11. Shri Keshav Desiraju           | - | Joint Secretary   |
| 12. Dr. K. Narayan Rao             | - | Member Secretary AICTE                                    |
| 13. Dr. Kem                        | - | Secretary, UGC  |
| 14. Shri Ved Prakash               | - | Vice Chancellor, NUEPA                                    |
| 15. Prof. Savyasachi Bhattacharya  | - | Chairman, ICHR  |
| 16. Prof. K. Ramakrishna Rao       | - | Chairman, ICPR  |
| 17. Prof. T.C.A. Anant             | - | Member Secretary, ICSSR                                   |
| 18. Mrs. Nuzhat Hassan             | - | Director, NBT   |
| 19. Shri R. Ranganath              | - | Secretary, NCMEI  |
| 20. Prof. Shambhunath Shaw         | - | Director, KHSM, Agra                                      |
| 21. Prof. V. Kutumba Shastry       | - | Vice-Chancellor, Rashtriya Sanskrit<br>Sansthan           |
| 22. Prof. Bijay Kumar              |   | Chairman, Commission for Scientific Technical Terminology |
| 23. Dr. Pushpa Lata Taneja         | - | Director, Central Hindi Directorate                       |
| 24. Dr. D.K. Paliwal               | - | DEA   |
| 25. Smt. Anupama Bhatnagar         | - | Director  |
| 26. Smt. Rashmi Chowdhari          | - | Director  |
| 27. Shri Puran Singh, Director     | - | Director  |
| 28. Shri Satish Nambudiripad       | - | Director  |

2. The Committee heard the oral evidence of the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education on their Demands-for-Grants (2007-2008). The Secretary made a presentation on the activities and achievements of the Department and briefly explained the budgetary allocation under different heads as also the functioning of the Department. The Members then sought clarifications to which the Secretary and the officials of the Department replied. The Committee, thereafter, adjourned at 1.00 p.m. for lunch.

3. \*\*\*

4. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

5. The Committee then adjourned at 4.30 p.m. to meet again on Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007.

**NEW DELHI**  
**30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007**

**VIMAL KUMAR**  
**UNDER SECRETARY**

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\*\*\*relates to other matter

**XVI**  
**SIXTEENTH MEETING**



The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Janardan Dwivedi               $\frac{3}{4}$               *Chairman*

### RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah
3. Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik
4. Shri Vijay Kumar Rupani
5. Shri Laxminarayan Sharma
6. Smt. Brinda Karat
7. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
8. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary
9. Smt. Supriya Sule
10. Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran

### LOK SABHA

11. Shri Ashok Argal
12. Shri Basudeb Barman
13. Shri Harishchandra Chavan
14. Shri Harisinh Chavda
15. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
16. Shri Ramswaroop Koli
17. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
18. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
19. Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh
20. Shri Chengara Surendran
21. Shri K. Virupakshappa
22. Shri Francis K. George
23. Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh

### SECRETARIAT

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

2.            \*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

3.            The Committee, thereafter, took up for consideration the draft Reports on the Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the (i) Department of School Education & Literacy; (ii) Department of Higher Education; and (iii) Ministry of Women & Child Development. The Committee discussed and adopted the reports one-by-one with certain modifications. The Committee also authorized the Chairman to fix a suitable date to present/lay the Reports in the second part of Budget Session of Parliament and also nominate members from both the Houses to present/lay the reports.

4.            \*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

5.            The Committee then adjourned at 1.35 p.m.

**NEW DELHI**  
**18<sup>th</sup> April, 2007**

**VIMAL KUMAR**  
**UNDER SECRETARY**

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\*\*\*relates to other matter