

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

207

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

TWO HUNDRED SEVENTH REPORT

ON

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2008-2009 (DEMAND NO. 58) OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)**

**(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 17TH APRIL, 2008)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 17TH APRIL, 2008)**

**RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
APRIL, 2008/CHAITRA, 1930 (SAKA)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON HRD
(2008-09)**

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

**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
8. *Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary
9. Smt. Supriya Sule
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LOK SABHA

11. Shri Ashok Argal
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25. Shri K. Virupakshappa
26. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
27. Shri Francis K. George
28. Shri Anantkumar Hegde
29. Shri Rahul Gandhi
30. Dr. Ram Lakhani Singh
31. Shri Abu Hasem Khan Chowdhury

*Ceased to be a Member of the Committee consequent upon retirement from the Rajya Sabha with effect from 9th April, 2008.

SECRETARIAT

Shri N.C. Joshi, Secretary

Smt. Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
 Shri N.K. Singh, Director
 Shri J. Sundriyal, Joint Director
 Shri Sanjay Singh, 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 Two Hundred Seventh Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (Demand No.58) of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2008-2009.

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 27th March, 2008.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 15th April, 2008.

NEW DELHI;
 April 15, 2008
 Chaitra 26, 1930 (Saka)

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

REPORT

I. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

1.1 The allocations for the Department of Higher Education in 2007-08 were as under:-

	(Rs in crores)	
	BE 2007-08	RE 2007-08
Plan	6480.50	3261.35
Non-Plan	2729.00	3136.01
Total	9209.50	6397.36

1.2 The Committee notes that while there has been a decrease in the BE allocation of 2007-08 at the RE stage on the plan side, there was an increase on the non-plan side. The Department has informed that the decrease of Rs.3219.50 crore in Plan at RE 2007-08 was primarily due to the fact that recommendations of the Oversight Committee on expansion of capacities of the existing higher education institutions could not be implemented. On the Non-Plan side, increase was mainly for the schemes of University Grants Commission, Indian Institutes of Technology and the National Institutes of Technology.

1.3 As compared to the 2007-08 budget provisions, the allocation for the Department for 2008-09 has shown an overall increase of Rs.1643.37 crore, both Plan and Non-Plan as indicated below:.

	(Rs in crores)		
	BE 2007-08	BE 2008-09	Increase when compared to BE 2007-08
Plan	6480.50	7593.50	1113.00 (17.17%)
Non-Plan	2729.00	3259.37	530.37 (19.43%)

1.4 Overall utilisation of Rs.2314.96 crore against a RE allocation of Rs.3272.85 crore during the first three quarters of 2007-08 i.e., upto 31st December, 2007 can be considered satisfactory. However, sector-wise expenditure *vis-a-vis* BE/RE during 2007-08 (upto December, 2007) indicates slow pace of utilisation of allocated funds as detailed below:-

	(Rs. in crores)		
Scheme/Programme	BE	RE	Expenditure
University Education	2416.00	1838.37	1385.60
Languages	172.50	170.06	78.01
Scholarships	14.00	14.00	0.00
Book Promotion	11.50	11.50	4.18
Distance Education	610.00	108.00	40.00
Technical Education	3240.00	1103.20	794.00

1.5 The Committee also takes note of the expenditure on plan funds allocated to different schemes/organizations during the year 2007-08 as under:-

	(Rs. in crores)		
Scheme/organisation	BE	RE	Expenditure (upto December, 2007)
Indian Council of Social Science Research	22.20	19.45	6.58
Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial College	1.50	1.50	0.00
Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla	2.40	2.40	60 lakhs
Commission for Scientific and Technology Terminology	4.00	3.61	1.41
Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernisation Programme	55.00	50.00	10.19
Appointment of Language teachers	0.00	15.00	6.08
Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore	24.10	20.25	9.36
IGNOU	108.00	108.00	40.00

Community Polytechnics	20.00	2.01	22 lakhs
Grants to IITs	1289.00	404.00	262.80
National Institutes of Teachers Trg. and Research	24.00	14.91	5.80
Polytechnics for Disabled Persons	4.00	2.61	0.00

1.6 The Committee appreciates the enhancements in allocations for the year 2008-09 which is about 18 per cent over the previous year. It is, however, not satisfied with the trend of utilisation of the allocations made during 2007-08, specially in the schemes/organizations mentioned above. While the overall expenditure of Department may be as per the norms i.e. upto 70% of the allocated funds upto December, 2007, scheme-wise utilisation of funds does not reflect a happy picture. Expenditures in regard thereto are far less than the norms laid down in this regard. The Committee has been in its previous reports expressing its concern about the less utilisation of funds under the various programmes/schemes. The Committee observes that in respect of all the above mentioned schemes/organisations, allocation for 2008-09 shows an upward trend. It, therefore, recommends the Department to make an assessment of the manner in which these schemes/programmes are being implemented/administered and see to it that funds allocated to them did not remain underutilised/unutilized, certainly not less than the norms prescribed in this respect.

1.7 The Committee was informed that Utilisation Certificates (UCs) for an amount of Rs. 4229.03 crore were pending as on 01.04.2007. Due to persistent efforts at the Departmental level, 509 UCs worth Rs. 4052.28 crores were obtained as on 31.12.2007. Utilization Certificates for an amount of Rs. 176.75 crores are now pending as on 31.12.2007. The Committee appreciates the efforts made by the Department and hopes that the Department would be able to liquidate all the pending UCs during the current fiscal.

1.8 The Committee was also informed that unspent balances of Rs.523.49 crores (as on 01.04.2007) and Rs. 391.65 crores (as on 30.09.2007) were lying with State Governments and other Implementing agencies during 2007-08. The Committee is happy to see that due to efforts of the Department, the amount of USBs was also coming down. It would like the Department to continue to strive to bring down these unspent balances to the minimum.

II. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

2.1 The UGC was founded under an Act of Parliament in 1956 for the purpose of co-ordination and determination of standards in universities. While UGC provide assistance to all eligible Universities and Institutions deemed to be Universities, provision for assistance to Central Universities is being distinctly made.

2.2 There are 416 Universities today. These include 24 Central Universities, 251 State Universities, 5 Institutions established under state legislation and 33 institutions of National Importance established by Central legislation. Besides these, there are 20,677 colleges including around 2,166 women Colleges. At the beginning of the academic year 2007-08, total number of students enrolled in the Universities and

Colleges was 116.13 lakhs-15.03 lakh (12.94%) in University Departments and 101.10 lakhs (87.06%) in affiliated Colleges. Of these, 47.09 lakhs constituting 40.55% of total enrolment were women.

2.3 During 2008-09, a budgetary allocation of Rs. 5104.90 crores has been made for UGC. This includes Rs. 3095.50 crores on plan side and Rs. 2009.40 crores on the non-plan side. The Committee was informed that Rs. 875 crore of this allocation was for the purpose of implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations for meeting the requirement for enhanced number of students in Central Universities.

2.4 The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the allocation of UGC funds during 2004-05 to 2006-07 to eligible Central Universities/State Universities/Deemed Universities showed a declining trend as given below:-

		(Rs. in crore)		
	University	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Arunachal University, Itanagar	10.82	1.80	1.64
2.	Assam University, Silchar	33.62	11.93	10.33
3.	IGNOU	7.09	3.94 lakhs	84 thousand
4.	Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla	3.13	8.05	1.31
5.	Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi	2.90	1.29	90 lakhs
6.	Mumbai University, Mumbai	12.66	14.75	7.22
7.	Poona University, Pune	14.30	10.10	5.28
8.	Bharti Vidyapith, Pune	1.10	7.92 lakhs	9.09 lakhs
9.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	3.10	2.76	1.58
10.	Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan	4.39	4.24	3.57
11.	Madras University, Chennai	10.07	34.70	3.83
12.	Tripura University, Agartala	10.01	2.35	63 lakhs
13.	Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	2.78	34 lakhs	90.65 lakhs
14.	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture, Pant Nagar	17 lakh	12.25 lakh	2.60 lakhs
15.	Calcutta University, Kolkata	10.76	34.77	6.70

2.5 On enquiring about it, the Department replied that the UGC releases the first installment of the Plan Grant to all the eligible Central Universities/State Universities/Deemed-to-be-Universities on the basis of the recommendation of the UGC Visiting Committee. However, subsequent installments are

released to the universities only upon receipt of the UCs from the universities as per the guidelines of the schemes. The Department, however, could not furnish the details of the funds allocated and the UCs received, pending from such universities and asked for some more time for this.

2.6 The Committee would like the Department and the UGC to compile these records online which may be updated every year. It would like the Department to furnish the reply in this regard.

2.7 The Committee was informed that UGC had constituted a number of Committees namely, Yash Pal Committee to prepare curriculum framework for higher education; Gnanam Committee on administrative and academic reforms; and another Committee on the affiliated under-graduate colleges. **The Committee notes that these Committees are working on important aspects that are quite germane to the system of higher education. The Committee hopes that these Committees would be able to submit their reports in provided time frame and it would like to know the views of the government on the recommendations made by them.**

Audit Paragraphs

2.8 The Committee's attention was drawn to the audit paragraph regarding injudicious release grants by the UGC. In para 6.8, it is said that an advance grant of Rs. 5.48 crores was released to 24 universities in March, 2004 in violation of the provisions of the schemes as well GFRs. This had resulted in the blocking of funds for a period ranging between 8 and 24 months and consequent loss of interest upto Rs. 59 lakhs. Para 6.7 refers to irregular award of construction work. The UGC is also said to have awarded consultancy work to EduCIL resulting in extra liability of Rs. 6.45 crore. Further, interest free mobilization advance of Rs. 4 crore was also paid in violation of the rules.

2.9 In another audit paragraph in the CAG Report, it has been stated that the Visva Bharati University had failed to take any effective action against encroachers of University land. Several other functional lapses regarding the Museum of the University like lack of proper maintenance of artifacts, security arrangements in the museum, missing artifacts, etc. have been pointed out in the said paragraph.

2.10 The Committee hopes that follow-up action on the CAG Report and corrective measures for future must have been taken by the UGC.

Allocation of Rs. 100 crore each to Universities of Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai

2.11 The Finance Minister had announced in his Budget Speech on the 28th February, 2006 to provide Rs. 100 crore to each of these three universities for setting up research centres for NanoSciences. The Committee was informed that Rs. 10 crore was released to each of the three universities as the first installment by the U.G.C. on the 20th September, 2007 *i.e.* eighteen months later. On being asked, the Department of Higher Education had submitted stage-by-stage developments which took place between the announcement of this grant and the release of first installment. After perusal of this, it is found that involvement of various Departments, UGC, the three universities and the Planning Commission as well as the elaborate financial procedures, particularly in Department of Expenditure and UGC, were the main reasons for such a prolonged process. The Expert Committee of the UGC, in fact, had proposed to divert

a part of the fund for the Social Science and Humanities. The Department of Expenditure had its own longish procedure and elaborate technical formalities and then the Planning Commission proposed to include other allocations also made to the three universities towards their 150th year celebration into the 100 crore. During this time, the universities were required to submit their proposals thrice. **The Committee feels that the M/HRD's stand on treating this as a central assistance to UGC and on-going scheme, if heeded by the Department of Expenditure, these formalities and procedures could have been avoided without committing any type of irregularities, procedural or otherwise and the matter could have been expedited.**

2.12 The Committee discussed the disbursal of this assistance with the Vice-Chancellors of the three universities and they were of the opinion that due to delayed and piecemeal releases of this assistance, they were facing various problems in starting/continuing their projects as approved by the UGC. Since the setting up of research facilities for frontier areas like NanoScience/technology which is a highly sophisticated and capital intensive activity involving different time-bound commitments, we can ill-afford to adopt such a complex and long procedure for releasing the funds. Besides, the stages/phases in which the moneys have been proposed to be released also are not in keeping with the stages/procedures involved in procurement of equipments from India and abroad, civil constructions in which regular payments are to be made. The second installment of fifteen crore each was released to these universities on the 15th February, 2008 after the Committee took up the matter. **The Committee urges upon the Department of Higher Education and the UGC to expedite release of money as soon as possible under the existing guidelines/norms of fund disbursal of the UGC. These universities have special status and significance having made a mark in the academic history of our country. By giving grant of Rs.100 crore to these universities, the Committee feels, we are not doing a favour to these universities. In fact, it should be treated as a small tribute to their contribution in the various walks of life during pre-Independence days and after. Therefore, the Committee feels that disbursal of this assistance to these great academic institutions should be done as a special case even if we have to make an exception to UGC rules/norms without treating it as a usual routine affair so that the projects undertaken by them do not suffer.**

Vacancies in Central Universities

2.13 The problem of large number of vacancies particularly in teaching positions of the Central Universities has been engaging the attention of the Committee for a long time. In its 172nd Report on University and Higher Education as also in its subsequent 193rd and 202nd Reports on the Demands for Grants for the year 2007-08, the Committee had taken up this issue in detail and had called upon the Government to ensure that these vacant positions were filled up at the earliest. While considering the Demands for Grants for the year 2008-09, also this issue had come up before the Committee. The Committee found that in the existing twenty four Central Universities/institutions, out of 8723 sanctioned teaching posts, 1707 (20%) posts are vacant. The efforts made include : the posts have been advertised, Employment Notifications have been finalized, recruitment is under process, concerted efforts are being made to fill the posts, etc. The Committee does not know the break-up of these vacancies at different levels and the duration of these vacancies. The Committee was surprised to note that the posts had to be re-advertised because the eligible/suitable candidates could not be found in Assam University, University of Hyderabad, North-Eastern Hill University, Mahatma Gandhi

Antrrashtriya Vishvavidyalaya, Tripura University, Pondicherry University and Nagaland University. The most surprising fact about the newly created University of Allahabad was that information in this regard is not available either with the U.G.C. or with the Department.

2.14 In view of these vacancy positions, the Committee does not know how are we going to manage the teaching positions at various levels that would be required for thirty Central Universities that are proposed to be opened during 2008-09 itself. The Committee hopes that the Department/UGC has an emergent plan for this purpose.

2.15 The Department has expressed kind of helplessness in this very crucial area of higher education. Its role was "limited to providing the Visitors nominees to the Selection Committees" of these universities because the recruitments of the teaching posts in a university were made by Executive Councils. The only measure that the Central Government could take in this regard was to enhance the age of the superannuation of the teachers in its universities from 62 to 65 years. The Committee had expressed its strong reservations about raising of retirement age because this move would block the employment opportunities at the entry level as hundreds of eligible candidates are jobless. The Committee reiterates its recommendation made in its 202nd Action Taken Report that raising of retirement age should be adopted only as a temporary measure till the large number of existing vacancies were filled up.

2.16 The Department informed in Action Taken Notes furnished to the Committee in 2007-08 as follows:

	2004	2005	2006
Number of UGC-NET qualified	7242	13833	12187
Number of Doctorates awarded	15328	17853	17898

In view of the large number of NET qualified and Doctorate holders being available as shown above, the fact of suitable candidates not being available for teaching positions is quite surprising to the Committee. If it is so, it indicates towards another serious malaise of sub-standard quality of education, where we have the numbers but not the quality. This situation puts a big question mark on our efforts as well as achievements in this field which, in view of the Committee, calls a for serious review.

2.17 The Committee agrees with the Department that due to obvious reasons, the bright young people were not attracted to adopt teaching in higher education as a career as compared to other new and emerging sectors of our economy. The Government has appointed a committee for the revision of the pay scales, service conditions, etc. of the university and college teachers and other academic staff. The Committee hopes that recommendation of the pay revision body would come out soon and be implemented at the earliest so that the teaching profession could be made more attractive.

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Vacancies

2.18 As regards vacancies in teaching positions reserved for SC/ST categories in the Central universities, the Committee was informed in the Action Taken Note that there were 224 posts identified in SC category and 128 in ST category of which 177 and 94 posts respectively were filled up or were in the process of being filled up as on 31st August, 2007. **The Committee is happy to see that these vacancies are being cleared and hopes that remaining will also be filled up without further delay.**

2.19 The Committee is surprised to note that out of remaining 47 posts of SC and 34 of ST category, 32 posts and 21 posts respectively belonged to Delhi University. **A prestigious central university like Delhi University has allowed the vacancies of SCs and STs to remain unfilled for which no justification could be given to the Committee. This fact was pointed out by the Committee in its 202nd Report also and it would like to reiterate that the Department/UGC must ensure that the University fills up these vacancies on priority because it is a constitutional obligation.**

Vacancies in State Universities

2.20 As regards teaching vacancies in State universities/colleges, complete data is not available with the UGC. In spite of the Department being in continuous dialogue with the State universities and State governments, the exact position in respect of vacant teaching positions could not be obtained. It appears that they shy away from furnishing this information to the UGC and the Department. This Committee had asked the Department in its 202nd Report to take it up with the States. This issue was taken up in the State Education Ministers' Conference in April, 2007, where it was agreed to make efforts *inter alia* to get the bans lifted on the recruitment of teachers wherever there was such a ban. **The Committee is aware of the limitations of the Central Government in this regard. At the same time, status of teaching vacancies in State universities which may be equally bad, if not worse when compared with Central Universities, cannot be ignored any more. The Committee, therefore, feels that the Department should continue making assiduous efforts at the Secretary and Minister's level in different States to get the vacancies liquidated. The U.G.C. which provides grants/assistance to State universities and colleges is required to play a pro-active role in this regard by linking disbursement of these funds with the position of vacancies in the State universities/colleges. This becomes more important in view of the fact that U.G.C. was going to support remaining universities and colleges also which have not received any support from the UGC so far.**

Deemed-to-be- Universities

2.21 The issue of Deemed Universities came up for discussion in the meeting of the Committee on the examination of the Demands for Grants of the Department. The Committee found that the number of deemed universities had increased disproportionately during the recent years. It was felt that perhaps inadvertently, some institutions have received this status which did not fulfill the required conditions. Reference was also made to the Supreme Court observation in this regard. The Department in response stated that the main reason behind the increase in the number of Deemed Universities could be attributed to the fact that during the last 10 to 15 years, a large number of institutions had come up with private initiative and since they had approached the UGC, it could not deny them a recognition as the rules permitted it. As regards the quality aspect, it was submitted that the UGC had a very rigorous procedure

for granting approval to a proposal for Deemed University. These Committees for on-the-spot verification comprise of apart from UGC, representatives from the AICTE or the ICMR or the other Councils depending on the nature of the institution being examined in addition to the UGC representatives. The Committee then submits a report which is either for rejection or acceptance and the Commission deliberates on it. It is thereafter sent for final approval of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

2.22 The Department, however, also informed the Committee regarding provisions in the rules thereby providing for relaxation of rules/guidelines for setting up of these deemed universities. It was stated that there was a category called *de novo* universities which did not need to fulfill the required conditions. Further, it was also accepted that there was a relaxation in the State clearance provision whereby the UGC waited for only a period of three to four months for the mandatory State clearance and if it did not come by, the UGC can go ahead with examination of the proposal and give it. **The Committee is in favour of devising a mechanism to ensure consultation with the States in the process.**

2.23 **The Committee is of the view that the power of the Department and UGC for granting Deemed-to-be-University status to any institution of higher education is extraordinary in nature, because it amounts to by-passing legislatures; a University can only be established/incorporated by an Act passed either by Parliament or a State Legislature. This power, therefore, should be used sparingly and only in highly deserving cases. Alternatively, all the other cases could be covered under the autonomous colleges scheme. About this concept of deemed-to-be universities, the Committee has expressed its opinion in its 172nd Report that the entire scheme needs to be revisited. The Committee reiterates its recommendation and expects a considered response from the Department in this regard.**

Fake Universities

2.24 The issue of fake universities was taken up by this Committee in its Report on Demand for Grants for the previous year in which it had expressed its concern about large number of fake universities/institutions operating in violation of Section 22 of the UGC Act. The Committee discussed this issue while considering Demands for Grants for the year 2008-09 also and found that hardly an action could be initiated in the intervening period. As a result, fake universities and institutions continue to operate with impunity. The Committee is rather surprised to see this year their number has gone up from 19 to 21. The Department and the UGC are unable to intervene effectively in this matter mainly because necessary legal sanctions to proceed against them are not available. The UGC Act does not provide for making an on-the-spot inspection of such institutions and maximum punishment for them under this Act is a fine for one thousand rupees. As a result, legal and punitive actions against these institutions are not being deterrent and decisive. The Department writes to the UGC about this and the UGC's efforts have not made any headway in restricting/closing fake universities' operations. The Department also took it up with the State Governments and District Administration but without any result. In one or two cases, such Universities have gone to Court against UGC/Government. In some cases, even Court interventions have not helped. The Committee notes that the Department has pinned all its hope of curtailing their activities on the proposed review of the functioning of the UGC and AICTE after which UGC Amendment Bill might be introduced in Parliament.

2.25 To a specific query, the Department could furnish status of only fourteen fake universities. A perusal of the university-wise information makes a very interesting and also dismal reading. There are universities whose existence came to the notice of UGC decades ago. The attempts made by UGC to check their activities have failed to make any difference. They continue to flourish, requests made/warning issued by UGC notwithstanding. In some cases, even Court interventions, that too by the Apex Court of the country seem to have failed miserably. Status note furnished by the Department, in fact, creates a sense of complete helplessness. In one-two cases, such universities have gone to Courts against UGC/Government. For the remaining fake Universities, the information is not available. The Committee would also like to point out that there may be many more such institutions whose existence we may not be aware about.

2.26 The Committee is at loss to see that we are caught into a very helpless situation, where we are unable to apply an effective check on operations of the fake universities/institutions. UGC, apart from issuing their names on its website and media and writing to the States, has not been able to do anything. The Committee is not inclined to agree that nothing could be done against such institutions until AICTE/UGC Acts were amended. The Committee is of the view that they can be proceeded against even under the existing laws as their operation amounts to cheating *per se*. What is required is a strong will to nab them and close their operations.

III. Women and Higher Education

3.1 The Committee notes that at the beginning of the academic year 2007-08, the enrollment of women in higher education was about 40% and of their total enrollment, 12.35% were for professional courses. Taking that only 10% of our youth (both boys and girls) go for higher education, the share of women in terms of absolute numbers, therefore, remains woefully small. Secondly, if we look at the social composition of the women going for higher education, the share of women from disadvantaged sections and those from rural areas would be still smaller.

3.2 The Committee was informed that following schemes were being implemented for increasing women participation in higher education - Development of Women Studies in Universities/Colleges, Basic facilities for women in Universities and Colleges, Scholarship for women in professional programmes, Post Doctoral Fellowship to women candidates, Day Care Centres in Universities and Colleges and Part-Time Research Associateship for Women. The Committee, over the years, has seen that the implementation of these schemes has not been very effective as their impact is not visible. As regards allocations, the Committee has pointed out in its previous reports also that the schemes for women have generally been starved of funds. For example, even though the UGC scheme for having Women Study Centres in universities and colleges is being implemented for the last many years, out of the total universities in the country, only 72 centres could be set up so far. During the 10th Plan total grant of Rs. 19.54 crore was released for this purpose, whereas in the 11th Plan, Rs. 3.85 crore has been released till now. The Committee was informed that at the end of 2006-07, 104 proposals for establishing Women Study Centres were pending for approval. This number, however, went up to 130 at the beginning of 2008. The Standing Committee that was set up by the UGC to review its scheme on Women Study Centres has decided to visit all the centres. The Committee finds that the process of approval for the Women Study Centres is very slow. As a result, a large number of proposals keep pending. **The Committee would like to emphasize that the Department and UGC will have to**

sensitize the universities and colleges to come forward for this purpose with a view to ensure that all the universities are covered during the 11th Plan. Similarly, the implementation of the Post-Graduate Scholarship Scheme for Single Girl Child also leaves much to be desired. **In view of the position explained above, the Committee feels that schemes for women participation in higher education should be implemented in a more focussed and effective manner and adequate financial assistance be provided during the 11th Plan so that their implementation does not suffer. It should also be ensured that their physical and financial performance is also improved to a great extent.**

3.3 Another aspect that the Committee would like to point out in this regard is the absence of gender segregated data in respect of various schemes that are being implemented by the Department of Higher Education. Aspects of gender budgeting are not being reflected in the documents prepared and supplied by the Department including its Annual Report. As a result, it is not possible to know as to what percentage of expenditure was going for the women. **The Committee, therefore, recommends that this aspect must be included every year particularly in the Budget Document and Annual Report of the Department.**

IV. NEW INITIATIVES/SCHEMES

4.1 The Department had launched a Scheme of Scholarship for College and University students last year i.e., 2007-08. Under the scheme, it is proposed to cover 2% of boys and 3% of girls in the Colleges/Universities and around 82,000 fresh scholars at graduate level are proposed to be covered in the first year of the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee was informed that the modalities of the Scheme had been worked out. The scheme was however awaiting the EFC approval.

4.2 The Committee was also informed that a new Scheme of 'Education Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme' has been proposed to be launched in 2008-09. Under this Scheme, there would be provision for providing interest subsidy during the moratorium period covering the duration of the professional course plus one year or six months from the date of employment, whichever is earlier, on the educational loans taken by students having lower than a specific parental income, for pursuing professional education in India under the Educational Loan Scheme formulated by the Indian Banks Association. The details of criteria of selection of students for the proposed scheme were yet to be finalised.

4.3 **After seeing the extent of coverage and allocation of the Scholarship scheme and performance of other such schemes, the Committee finds its apprehensions in this regard have come true. The Committee has been emphasizing about raising the numbers of scholarships/Associateships for higher education in a big way; it has expressed its reservations about the logic and efficacy of educational loans in our country. Such loans may help only a small number of students in elite institutions/sectors that fetch handsome salary; what about the large majority, particularly those students from poor families and other insitutions. This problem is being compounded when IIMs/IITs are raising fees at prohibitive levels. Large majority of students in our country come from poor families and education is in social sector. The need, therefore, for government's control over deciding the fee can hardly be over-emphasized. While subsidizing educational loans may be welcome idea, the Committee recommends to increase the number of scholarships/assistance for poor students.**

V. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCE STUDIES, SHIMLA

5.1 The Committee in its 193rd Report on Demands for Grants, 2007-08 had pointed out a number of irregularities found out in a special audit, particularly certain lacunae in the terms and conditions of grant of fellowship resulting in large number of fellows not submitting their monographs/research papers. The Institute could neither insist upon their submission nor take any action against them. In the absence of a provision to make the fellows accountable in such a situation, the institution suffered huge financial loss. Issue of unauthorized expenditure and blockage of huge fund due to slow progress of special repair and maintenance of its buildings was also pointed out by the Committee. These concerns of the Committee were communicated to the Institute by the Department who have maintained that Institute had a system of concurrent monitoring of research being conducted by its fellows and they are now making a six monthly review to monitor the progress by the experts. But the Institute has not said anything about to claim the money back from the defaulting fellows, as is being practised by the other Councils like ICHR. The Institute, however, had assured to initiate a revision of system of monitoring of its fellows to instill accountability in them as well as in the Institute administration so that such a situation did not arise in future. For this, the Governing Body of this Institute was scheduled to meet in October, 2007. But the Committee notes that the Governing body could not meet in October and its meeting which was held in February, 2008 could not arrive at any decision and the matter has been deferred for a future date. The Committee also observes that the financial performance of this Institute except for the year 2006-07 has not been upto the mark. In the year 2007-08, out of Rs.2.40 crore allocated under the Plan, only 60 lakh was spent till December, 2007. **In view of the position given above, the state of affairs in such an old and prestigious Institute does not present a very happy picture. The Committee is for the development and strengthening of this Institute which has had a glorious past. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Department should ensure that research work in this Institute is carried on without any hindrance and a system imbued with transparency and accountability in its functioning is put in place at the earliest. The Committee would like to have action taken note on the steps taken in this regard.**

VI. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

6.1 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) promote, co-ordinate and determine standards in such systems. The University is now offering 129 programmes consisting of 16 Doctoral, 18 Master's Degree, 13 Bachelor's degree, 21 P.G. Diploma, 22 Diploma Programmes, 39 Certificate and Awareness level programmes. The number of students registered with IGNOU in the year 2007 was 4, 68,444. The cumulative enrolment of students at IGNOU is almost 1.7 million, as on date. The student support system network of IGNOU now consists of 59 Regional Centres, five Sub-regional Centres and 1468 Study Centres. The teaching and non-teaching staff strength as on date in IGNOU was 354 and 1138 respectively.

6.2 Plan allocation for Distance Education for the year 2007-08 at the BE stage was drastically reduced from Rs. 610.00 crores to Rs.108.00 crores. Expenditure incurred upto December, 2007 was Rs. 40.00 crores only. **The Committee is dismayed to find under-utilization of funds for the Schemes under Distance Education as shown below:-**

	BE 2007-08	RE 2007-08	Actual Expenditure till December, 2007
1. National Mission in Education through ICT & Communication Technology	502.00	0.00	0.00
2. IGNOU	108.00	108.00	40.00
Total	610.00	108.00	40.00

6.3 The Committee observes that the allocation for National Mission in Education through ICT at the BE stage was brought down to nil at the RE stage. The reason given is that the approval of the EFC is awaited and therefore the scheme could not be launched. An allocation of Rs. 502.00 crores has been made for the Scheme for 2008-09. **The Committee recommends that approval of the EFC and other procedural formalities need to be taken care of at the earliest for timely initiation of the Scheme.**

6.4 The Committee also observe that allocation for IGNOU was reduced drastically from Rs. 610.00 crore at the BE stage to Rs. 108.00 crore at the RE stage. The Committee is clueless about the reason for this drastic reduction in the allocation for IGNOU. Out of this allocation, expenditure incurred till December, 2007 was only Rs. 40.00 crore. **The Committee reiterates its serious concern about under-utilization of funds for an important scheme like IGNOU.** The Committee has been given to understand that a quarterly review meeting with the officers of IGNOU is arranged for each quarter of the financial year, at the level of Divisional Head in the Distance Learning & Scholarship Bureau to assess the achievements of physical and financial targets set by IGNOU. **The Committee would like to be apprised of the findings of this review meeting held recently regarding the achievement of IGNOU.**

6.5 As regards the achievements of IGNOU, the Committee has been given to understand that the total enrolment in the distance mode in the country is about 24% of the total enrollment in the higher education in the country and IGNOU caters to about 10% of this segment. During 2006-07, 5.36 lakh students were enrolled in about 138 programmes in IGNOU. The University has prepared about 3500 audio and 2000 video programmes and activated 269 new study centers in different parts of the country. During 2007-08, the University enrolled 5.15 lakh fresh students and has supported 13 States Open Universities (SOU) and 132 DIEs with financial assistance of Rs. 16.51 crore. **In view of the fact of under utilization of funds, the Committee is of the opinion that the achievement of IGNOU is not at desirable level. The successful implementation of a scheme depends on optimum and judicious utilization of resources and achievements of set targets. Concerted efforts need to be made for meeting escalating demands for Higher Education through an efficient open and distance learning system in the country.**

6.6 The Committee had raised the issues of non-availability of Internet and of books and study material in rural areas on time. The Department has made efforts towards providing a single window web based support services to the learners, network of 26 Gyanvani FM Radio Stations, making

available audio-video programmes/cassettes/CDs at Regional Centres and Study Centres, tele-conferencing facility, tele-counseling sessions etc. **These efforts of the Department would not help students having no access to Internet or students living in remote areas. The Committee is of the opinion that the IGNOU should ensure that required books and reading material are sent on time to the students. The Committee also recommends for expanding the network of Study Centres and improving the infrastructure of Centres for increased number of beneficiaries.**

6.7 Plan allocation for IGNOU and State Open Universities (SOUs) for the year 2008-09 is Rs. 120.00 crore. The Committee has taken note of the physical outputs outlined for IGNOU, SOUs, National Mission in Education through ICT for the year 2008-09-which are as follows:-

A. IGNOU (plan allocation of Rs. 50.00 crores)

Annual enrollment -5.5 lakhs
 Total enrollment- 20 lakhs
 New Programmes-5
 New Courses- 60
 New Regional Centres-2
 New Study Centres-100
 Number of new Overseas study centres- 5
 Establishment of ROTs per quarter- 35

B SOUs (plan allocation of Rs. 70.00 crores)

-
 Number of SOUs to whom financial assistance will be provided- 13
 Number of CCIs to whom financial assistance will be provided- 75

6.8 The Committee hopes that these fixed targets would be achieved by the Department within the stipulated time period of one year and with the funds available at hand.

6.9 The Committee takes into cognizance the risk factors also outlined by the Department like:-

- Non-availability of faculty in the respective disciplines and delay in approval process of various activities leading to under achievement of targets.
- Difficulty in identifying resource persons while launching region-based programme. The launching of the programme would be a first time effort by the Regional Centres.
- Delay in preparation of proposals, meeting of Council and submission of UCs thereby leading to under utilization of funds.

6.10 The Committee believes that by identifying the problem areas, the Department has taken a step forward and should now look for solutions. Efforts for making available faculty for various disciplines, preparatory exercise for launching region-based programmes etc. need to be done beforehand by the Department for effective and timely utilization of funds and resources.

VII. DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL (DEC)

7.1 To a specific query of the Committee relating to follow-up action of the Department on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission 2007 regarding creation of a new Standing Committee for the regulation of ODE and development of a system for quality assessment, the Committee has been informed that proposal for establishment of a statutory Distance Education Council and National Mission in Education through ICT are under consideration. Also, the proposed DEC shall have the function of accreditation, in addition to other functions. **The Committee supports this line of thinking of the Department but is not very happy with the pace of developments in this regard. Since DEC is a body under the IGNOU Act, many universities are not prepared to accept the DEC jurisdiction in recognizing/approving courses/degree offered by various universities/institutions. The Committee, in its earlier report had recommended for a separate Act for the DEC for making it a regulatory body for open university and open learning system and distance mode on the lines of UGC. DEC should be developed as an apex body for promoting, coordinating and determining standards in distance education.**

7.2 According to the Committee, the matter has been under consideration since long. The proposal of a new Statutory Council i.e., a statutory DEC should be finalized at the earliest. DEC should be constituted as early as possible so as to act as a regulating body for maintaining the standard of distance education, accreditation matters etc. The Committee is also of the opinion that before finalising the proposal to set up the DEC, Central Universities and other Institutions of Higher Learning like the IIMs, IITs, etc. may also be consulted.

VIII. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)

8.1 The main function of the AICTE is to ensure proper planning and coordinated development of technical education system in the country. Besides, its other functions include promotion of qualitative improvements in relation to planned quantitative growth and regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical education system.

8.2 The technical institutions under AICTE include post-graduate, under-graduate and diploma in the whole spectrum of technical education covering engineering/technology, pharmacy, architecture, hotel management and catering technology, management studies, computer applications and applied arts and crafts. The total number of institutions approved by the AICTE is 6996 with a total intake capacity of 13 lakhs students.

8.3 During the current year, budgetary allocation for AICTE is to the tune of Rs. 151.30 crore. This includes a plan allocation of Rs.150.30 crore and non-plan allocation of Rs.1.00 crore. The Committee notes that against RE allocation of Rs.328.00 crore in 2007-08, AICTE is reported to have utilised Rs.291.00 crore upto 31st December, 2007. **The Committee is not aware about the reasons for lower allocation made to AICTE in 2008-09. The Committee can only emphasize that its mandate of funding of various technical programmes, regulating the functioning of technical institutions spread across the country, programmes for faculty development etc., should not suffer for want of funds.**

8.4 Committee's attention was drawn to a number of issues relating to the functioning of AICTE in the recent past. On the regulatory aspect, as reported by the Department, 133 technical institutions were

running technical courses without the proper approval of the AICTE. Further, 167 institutions were flouting the norms of the AICTE by charging full fees at the beginning of courses, non-refund of fees on vacation of seats and other student related issues. As per the Department, AICTE, under its 'regulations for regulating entry and operation of Foreign Universities/Institutions imparting technical education in India', had granted approval to 4 institutions to run technical courses in collaboration with foreign institutions. The Committee on the other hand was informed that there were 76 institutions which offered courses in collaboration with foreign institutions without proper approval of the AICTE.

8.5 On the promotional aspect, the Committee noted that the Industry-Institution interface had failed to deliver despite there being a number of provisions under the AICTE Act. The Committee was also informed of serious regional imbalance in the spread of technical Institutions in the country with Southern region having the maximum concentration. The participation of the disadvantaged groups/SC/ST/OBC & women in technical education had also been dismal.

8.6 **These issues have time and again been pointed out by the Committee in the past. The Committee is also of the opinion that the AICTE Act in its present form has witnessed many weaknesses and it should be revamped at the earliest. This was emphasized by it as early as in 2001 in its 113th Report on Technical Education. The Committee is happy to note that the Department has finally taken a decision to review the functioning of AICTE. It hopes that the review would take into consideration all the shortcomings of the existing Act while simultaneously focussing on the upcoming challenges of technical education in India. The Committee is also in favour of devising a mechanism to ensure consultation with the States in this regard.**

8.7 **The Committee has been pursuing with the Department to work out a mechanism whereby something could be done on the issue of a number of seats remaining unfilled in the technical institutions every year. The Department has stated that a suitable mechanism was being worked out. The Committee desires that the Department in consultation with the States and other stakeholders should try to find a solution to this at the earliest.**

IX. CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

9.1 Institutions of Technology and Science primarily comprises of 7 IITs, 20 NITs, 4 IIITs, 3 IISERs, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, SPA, Delhi and the 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.

9.2 The Committee's attention has been drawn to the fact that grants released to several institutions under Plan during 2007-08 have remained under-utilised. The position at the end of December, 2007 was as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme/Programme/Project	Budget Estimate	(Rs. in crores)	
			Revised Estimate	Actual upto December, 2007
1.	National Institutes of Tech. Teachers Trg. & Research	24.00	14.91	5.80

2.	School of Planning & Architecture	16.00	4.00	2.50
3.	Grants to IISc, Bangalore	196.00	40.00	25.00
4.	North-Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Itanagar	55.00	10.00	5.50
5.	IIT, Allahabad	42.00	22.00	9.00
6.	IIT, Jabalpur	25.00	11.00	5.50
7.	Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar	5.50	8.10	4.37

The Committee would like to know about the reasons for the position shown above regarding under-utilisation of funds.

9.3 The Committee during its visits to some IITs had learnt that they were facing shortage of funds for recurring expenses like salaries, electricity/water bills etc and were being forced to draw money from their corpus due to annual Central Grants not showing an upward trend for the last few years. On specific query, the Department informed the Committee that the IITs were being funded by way of two grants viz., Plan Grants and Non-Plan Grants. A Block Grant Scheme to cover Non-Plan expenditure like salaries, pensions, electricity/water bills etc. of IITs was introduced in 2005-06 for a five year period i.e., upto 2009-10. Under this scheme, annual non-plan grant for each IIT was fixed for this five-year period with special provisions for *force majeure*. Also, to encourage internal resource generation by IITs, the scheme had provided that if an IIT's non-plan expenditure in a year turned out to be less than its block grants plus internal resources generated, the Central Government would give it a further matching grant equivalent to its surplus, till its corpus reaches Rs.100.00 crores. The Department accepted the fact that IIT, Mumbai had written to them saying that Block Grant was proving to be inadequate due to rising costs, increase in salary and pension benefits and enrolment etc. Ad-hoc revision of Block grants to IITs in a short-term followed by a comprehensive revision soon thereafter was under consideration of the Government. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education in his presentation before the Committee informed that this problem had arisen due to the fact that the scheme did not provide for any inflation, any indexing or any increase due to rise in number of students. He further informed that the number of students had gone up by 28 per cent in the IITs in the last three years but the grants did not increase and the internal resource generation of the IITs had also lowered in the recent years. He further informed the Committee that some additional block grant had been sanctioned for the current year and a long-term solution was being worked out for the future.

9.4 The Committee is happy to note that the Department has been prompt enough to grant additional grants to the IITs in distress. The Committee believes that fund constraints should not be allowed to hinder the functioning of premier institutions like the IITs. Otherwise, they would have no option but to raise student fee which would be a restrictive step. The Committee, therefore, recommends that IITs must be given adequate funds at appropriate stages.

9.5 The Committee's attention was drawn to a statement by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) authorities on there being non fixed procedure or technique for deciding cut-off marks in Joint Entrance Examinations for IITs. On enquiry, the Committee was informed that each year depending on the overall

performance of the candidates in each of the subjects, namely Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and the aggregate, the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) takes a decision in respect of the cut-off marks. The Committee was further informed that a writ petition had been filed in the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court in this regard and the matter was *sub-judice*.

9.6 The Committee desires to know about the entire procedure of holding the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for the IITs in detail. Main points of the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court in the matter, as and when delivered, may also be provided to the Committee.

X. SCHEME FOR UPGRADING EXISTING POLYTECHNICS AND SETTING UP OF NEW POLYTECHNICS IN SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS

10.1 The scheme of upgrading existing Polytechnics and setting up of new Polytechnics was announced in 2007-08 and an allocation of Rs.50.00 crore was made. Under the scheme, 244 districts identified based on various parameters were proposed to be covered. In 65 of these districts, there was no polytechnic and a new polytechnic each was proposed to be set up in these districts. For the remaining 177 districts, it was proposed to upgrade the infrastructure facilities in at least one polytechnic of these districts. The Department has stated that the approval of the competent authority could not be obtained in 2007-08 and hence a proposal covering more number of districts is being proposed during 2008-09.

10.2 The Committee is surprised to see that even one year after the scheme was announced, it is yet to be finalized. The Committee could see two major risk factors in the successful functioning of this scheme - timely approval of the competent authority and State Governments evincing interest and providing land. **The Committee reiterates its persistent observation of expediting the procedural formalities prior to launching of a new scheme.**

10.3 **The Committee is for inclusion of more districts under the Scheme. It expresses its displeasure for not being able to get the scheme finalized during 2007-08. Besides, the allocation of Rs. 110 crores for the scheme is highly inadequate in view of the fact that more districts are going to be included as announced in 2007-08. The Committee, therefore, recommends that scheme be finalized and implemented this year and more funds be provided for this scheme.**

XI. POLYTECHNICS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

11.1 The scheme of Polytechnics for Persons with Disabilities was launched with the objective of integrating the physically disabled (orthopaedically disabled, partially deaf and dumb) with the main stream of technical and vocational education through 50 existing polytechnics.

11.2 The Committee has been constantly monitoring the implementation of this scheme. Trend of fund utilisation under this scheme during the past few years has not been encouraging. During 2006-07, against an allocation of Rs.4 crore, expenditure was only Rs.1.42 crore. During 2007-08, BE allocation of Rs.4 crore was reduced to Rs.2.61 crore at RE and till December, 2007, nil expenditure being reported. As per the latest information, there has been a release of Rs.1.98 lakh in the last quarter (upto February, 2008). **The Committee is disheartened to note that during 2006-07 and 2007-08, 25 students in formal and 100 in non-formal streams could be admitted in 50 Polytechnics. The**

Committee notes that expansion of the scheme will be taken based on the Report of an Appraisal Committee. The Committee can understand that allocation of Rs.4 crore for 2008-09 can only be utilised after the formulation of the revised scheme. The Committee has serious doubt if the revised scheme can take off this year. The Committee is dismayed to see the manner in which the scheme is being treated. The Committee strongly feels that the Department will have to take urgent steps to reach out to persons with Disability and motivate them to take benefit of the scheme meant for them only. The Committee desires to be informed of the progress made in this regard.

XII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS

12.1 The Scheme of Community Polytechnics started in 1978-79 aims to harness the scientific and technical knowledge available with the Polytechnics to secure community/rural development. As per the latest information, there are about 669 community Polytechnics in the country which train about 500 persons each in different need-based non-formal skill/trade.

12.2 The Committee was informed that after the Tenth Plan ended, the scheme was withdrawn with effect from 31st July, 2007. Budget allocation was accordingly reduced and expenditure reported upto 31st December, 2007 is Rs.22 lakhs. As per the latest information, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Finance regarding continuation of plan schemes in the Eleventh Plan period, an Appraisal Committee was constituted to review the scheme. The review has found the scheme to be very useful for making rural youth employable to a large extent.

12.3 The Committee has noticed that during the Tenth Plan, trend of Plan fund allocation and utilisation thereof very clearly establishes that the scheme was not being administered as envisaged. The Committee strongly recommends that status of the scheme should change for the better during the Eleventh Plan. A beginning can be made by implementing the scheme in accordance with the suggestions made in the Appraisal Committee Report.

XIII. INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIM)

13.1 A plan allocation of Rs. 98 crores (inclusive of NER allocation) has been made for Indian Institutes of Managements (IIMs) in 2008-09. This includes Rs. 53 crores for implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations for meeting the requirement of enhanced number of students. The Committee has been informed that a Committee to review the functioning of IIMs under the Chairmanship of Shri R. C. Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Udyog Limited has been constituted. The terms of reference of the Committee include review of the present status of the IIMs, their existing courses, organizational and administrative structures, expansion plans, position of corpus funds, per student cost on various courses, availability of financial assistance to students, incentive schemes for faculty and non-faculty, etc.

13.2 The Committee welcomes this initiative of the Department. This review, the Committee hopes, will help resolve several issues that have been in the centre of national debate in the recent years. The Committee found that terms of reference of the Bhargava Committee includes *inter alia* to review the existing fee structure in IIMs, use of their corpus funds and the number of

scholarships/freeships, etc. This Committee appointed in October 2007 was supposed to submit its report within six months. It means that this Committee must be about to give its Report. The Committee fails to understand why some IIMs went ahead with raising their fees, without waiting for the Bhargava Committee Report. It strongly feels that in the future, no IIM should go ahead with increasing the fees before the Bhargava Committee submits its Report.

XIV. NEW INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

14.1 The Committee notes that the Department has drawn up an impressive list of new institutions of higher learning that are proposed to be set up during the XIth Plan. As per the Department, 30 Central Universities are proposed to be set up in the other States during 2008-09. Besides, 8 IITs (@ Rs.760 crore per IIT), 3 IISERs (@ Rs. 500 crore per IISER), 7 IIMs (Rs. 660.00 crores) and 2 SPAs (Rs. 348.50 crores) are also proposed to be set up this year. A scheme for setting up of 20 IIITs and 10 NITs is also under formulation.

14.2 During the year 2008-09, another new scheme for 'Establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science & Technology' has been announced by the Department. Under the scheme, 50 centres of excellence for advanced training and research in emerging areas like Biotechnology, Bio-informatics, Nano-materials and Nano-technologies, Machantronics, MEMS, High Performance Computing, Engineering/Industrial Design, Complexity and Self-organising systems, Professional/Business/Technical/Engineering Ethics, Value Education and Consciousness Studies, Leadership, Communication, Creativity, Innovation and Soft Life Skills Training and Development are proposed to be set up during the XIth Plan.

14.3 The Committee welcomes the decision to set up such a large number of premier institutions in the country that would certainly address the issue of access and quality to a great extent. What, however, worries the Committee is the massive efforts and resources that would be required for accomplishing it within the shortest possible time. Location of 4 IITs, 6 IIMs and 14 world class universities are yet to be finalised. The Committee is also concerned as to how the Department would fulfill its financial commitments in this regard given the fact that allocations during 2008-09 have been at their lowest. Most of the resources would go in implementing OBC reservation that has been given go ahead now. It is believed that the very basic formalities may perhaps not be completed during the year. The Department will be under tremendous pressure and the Committee feels that if it proceeds in a time-bound manner and gets required resources, task ahead should not be very difficult to fulfill.

XV. STUDY VISIT OF THE COMMITTEE

15.1 The Committee had recently visited the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai and the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata during January-February, 2008. During its visit to the campuses as well as during its interaction with the officials of these institutions, the following issues were brought to the notice of the Committee :-

- i) Inadequate financial support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development;
- ii) Need for Governmental assistance, both Centre as well as State, for expansion of

infrastructure;

- iii) Shortage of highly qualified and competent faculty;
- iv) Inadequate Industry-Institute interaction; and
- v) Mismatch between education and training received by graduates and their job requirements.

15.2 The Committee, during the aforesaid visit, also had an opportunity to visit the Universities of Madras, Calcutta and Mumbai. Some of the demands put forth to the Committee during its visit were :-

- i) Enhancing the quantum of Development Grants being given to these Universities;
- ii) augmentation of the faculty strength in these Universities with special emphasis on the new emerging fields of higher education; and
- iii) University officers be included within the purview of the UGC Pay Committee.

15.3 The Committee would like the Department to furnish brief but-to-the-point response on each of these issues/demands alongwith the action are being taken or could be taken in these respects.

XVI. DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGES

16.1 The Committee notes that allocations for 'Development of Languages' during 2007-08 has been grossly under-utilised. As per information furnished to the Committee, against an allocation of Rs.170.06 crore (RE) in 2007-08, expenditure reported upto December, 2007 was to the tune of Rs.78.01 crore which is even less than 50% of the allocated funds.

16.2 The Committee further notes that programme/scheme-wise utilisation of funds has also been poor. During 2007-08, utilisation of funds under different programmes/schemes till December, 2007 was as under:-

Programme/Scheme	B.E	R.E	(Rs. in crores)
			Actual Expenditure
Directorate of Hindi	9.00	9.00	5.10
Grants to Hindi Shiksha Mandal, Agra	17.00	6.00	2.80
Appointment of Language Teachers	0.00	15.00	6.08
Assistance to Agencies for Education in Human Values	0.00	3.00	1.46
Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore	24.10	20.25	9.36
National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language	1.00	1.70	0.90
Grants to Rashtriya Ved Vidya Sansthan	3.00	5.20	2.70

16.3 The Committee would like the Department to furnish a detailed note on the targets fixed and achievements, both physical and financial, for the Development of Languages in the last three

years. The difficulties faced by the Department in this regard may also be furnished for perusal of the Committee.

16.4 The Committee notes that the new schemes announced in 2007-08 for setting up of National Translation Mission, Linguistic Survey of India, Centre for Palli & Buddhist Studies and Scheme for Development of Minor and Endangered Indian Languages are at various stages of approval. **The Committee would appreciate if these formalities could be expedited and the schemes be implemented at the earliest during 2008-09 itself.**

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATION AT A GLANCE

I. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

1.6 The Committee appreciates the enhancements in allocations for the year 2008-09 which is about 18 per cent over the previous year. It is, however, not satisfied with the trend of utilisation of the allocations made during 2007-08, specially in the schemes/organizations mentioned above. While the overall expenditure of Department may be as per the norms *i.e.* upto 70% of the allocated funds upto December, 2007, scheme-wise utilisation of funds does not reflect a happy picture. Expenditures in regard thereto are far less than the norms laid down in this regard. The Committee has been in its previous reports expressing its concern about the less utilisation of funds under the various programmes/schemes. The Committee observes that in respect of all the above mentioned schemes/organisations, allocation for 2008-09 shows an upward trend. It, therefore, recommends the Department to make an assessment of the manner in which these schemes/programmes are being implemented/administered and see to it that funds allocated to them did not remain underutilised/unutilized, certainly not less than the norms prescribed in this respect.

1.7 The Committee appreciates the efforts made by the Department and hopes that the Department would be able to liquidate all the pending UCs during the current fiscal.

1.8 The Committee is happy to see that due to efforts of the Department, the amount of USBs was also coming down. It would like the Department to continue to strive to bring down these unspent balances to the minimum.

II. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

2.6 The Committee would like the Department and the UGC to compile these records online which may be updated every year. It would like the Department to furnish the reply in this regard.

2.7 The Committee was informed that UGC had constituted a number of Committees namely, Yash Pal Committee to prepare curriculum framework for higher education; Gnanam Committee on administrative and academic reforms; and another Committee on the affiliated under-graduate colleges. **The Committee notes that these Committees are working on important aspects that are quite germane to the system of higher education. The Committee hopes that these Committees would be**

able to submit their reports in provided time frame and it would like to know the views of the government on the recommendations made by them.

Audit Paragraphs

2.10 The Committee hopes that follow-up action on the CAG Report and corrective measures for future must have been taken by the UGC.

Allocation of Rs. 100 crore each to Universities of Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai

2.11 The Committee feels that the M/HRD's stand on treating this as a central assistance to UGC and on-going scheme, if heeded by the Department of Expenditure, these formalities and procedures could have been avoided without committing any type of irregularities, procedural or otherwise and the matter could have been expedited.

2.12 The Committee urges upon the Department of Higher Education and the UGC to expedite release of money as soon as possible under the existing guidelines/norms of fund disbursement of the UGC. These universities have special status and significance having made a mark in the academic history of our country. By giving grant of Rs.100 crore to these universities, the Committee feels, we are not doing a favour to these universities. In fact, it should be treated as a small tribute to their contribution in the various walks of life during pre-Independence days and after. Therefore, the Committee feels that disbursement of this assistance to these great academic institutions should be done as a special case even if we have to make an exception to UGC rules/norms without treating it as a usual routine affair so that the projects undertaken by them do not suffer.

Vacancies in Central Universities

2.14 In view of these vacancy positions, the Committee does not know how are we going to manage the teaching positions at various levels that would be required for thirty Central Universities that are proposed to be opened during 2008-09 itself. The Committee hopes that the Department/UGC has an emergent plan for this purpose.

2.15 The Department has expressed kind of helplessness in this very crucial area of higher education. Its role was "limited to providing the Visitors nominees to the Selection Committees" of these universities because the recruitments of the teaching posts in a university were made by Executive Councils. The only measure that the Central Government could take in this regard was to enhance the age of the superannuation of the teachers in its universities from 62 to 65 years. The Committee had expressed its strong reservations about raising of retirement age because this move would block the employment opportunities at the entry level as hundreds of eligible candidates are jobless. The Committee reiterates its recommendation made in its 202nd Action Taken Report that raising of retirement age should be adopted only as a temporary measure till the large number of existing vacancies were filled up.

2.16 The Department informed in Action Taken Notes furnished to the Committee in 2007-08 as follows:

	2004	2005	2006
Number of UGC-NET qualified	7242	13833	12187
Number of Doctorates awarded	15328	17853	17898

In view of the large number of NET qualified and Doctorate holders being available as shown above, the fact of suitable candidates not being available for teaching positions is quite surprising to the Committee. If it is so, it indicates towards another serious malaise of sub-standard quality of education, where we have the numbers but not the quality. This situation puts a big question mark on our efforts as well as achievements in this field which, in view of the Committee, calls for a serious review.

2.17 The Committee agrees with the Department that due to obvious reasons, the bright young people were not attracted to adopt teaching in higher education as a career as compared to other new and emerging sectors of our economy. The Government has appointed a committee for the revision of the pay scales, service conditions, etc. of the university and college teachers and other academic staff. The Committee hopes that recommendation of the pay revision body would come out soon and be implemented at the earliest so that the teaching profession could be made more attractive.

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Vacancies

2.18 As regards vacancies in teaching positions reserved for SC/ST categories in the Central universities, the Committee was informed in the Action Taken Note that there were 224 posts identified in SC category and 128 in ST category of which 177 and 94 posts respectively were filled up or were in the process of being filled up as on 31st August, 2007. **The Committee is happy to see that these vacancies are being cleared and hopes that remaining will also be filled up without further delay.**

2.19 The Committee is surprised to note that out of remaining 47 posts of SC and 34 of ST category, 32 posts and 21 posts respectively belonged to Delhi University. **A prestigious central university like Delhi University has allowed the vacancies of SCs and STs to remain unfilled for which no justification could be given to the Committee. This fact was pointed out by the Committee in its 202nd Report also and it would like to reiterate that the Department/UGC must ensure that the University fills up these vacancies on priority because it is a constitutional obligation.**

Vacancies in State Universities

2.20 The Committee is aware of the limitations of the Central Government in this regard. At the same time, status of teaching vacancies in State universities which may be equally bad, if not worse when compared with Central Universities, cannot be ignored any more. The Committee, therefore, feels that the Department should continue making assiduous efforts at the Secretary and Minister's level in different States to get the vacancies liquidated. The U.G.C. which provides grants/assistance to State universities and colleges is required to play a pro-active role in this

regard by linking disbursal of these funds with the position of vacancies in the State universities/colleges. This becomes more important in view of the fact that U.G.C. was going to support remaining universities and colleges also which have not received any support from the UGC so far.

Deemed-to-be- Universities

2.22 The Committee is in favour of devising a mechanism to ensure consultation with the States in the process.

2.23 The Committee is of the view that the power of the Department and UGC for granting Deemed-to-be-University status to any institution of higher education is extraordinary in nature, because it amounts to by-passing legislatures; a University can only be established/incorporated by an Act passed either by Parliament or a State Legislature. This power, therefore, should be used sparingly and only in highly deserving cases. Alternatively, all the other cases could be covered under the autonomous colleges scheme. About this concept of deemed-to-be universities, the Committee has expressed its opinion in its 172nd Report that the entire scheme needs to be revisited. The Committee reiterates its recommendation and expects a considered response from the Department in this regard.

Fake Universities

2.26 The Committee is at loss to see that we are caught into a very helpless situation, where we are unable to apply an effective check on operations of the fake universities/institutions. UGC, apart from issuing their names on its website and media and writing to the States, has not been able to do anything. The Committee is not inclined to agree that nothing could be done against such institutions until AICTE/UGC Acts were amended. The Committee is of the view that they can be proceeded against even under the existing laws as their operation amounts to cheating *per se*. What is required is a strong will to nab them and close their operations.

III. Women and Higher Education

3.2 The Committee would like to emphasize that the Department and UGC will have to sensitize the universities and colleges to come forward for this purpose with a view to ensure that all the universities are covered during the 11th Plan. Similarly, the implementation of the Post-Graduate Scholarship Scheme for Single Girl Child also leaves much to be desired. In view of the position explained above, the Committee feels that schemes for women participation in higher education should be implemented in a more focussed and effective manner and adequate financial assistance be provided during the 11th Plan so that their implementation does not suffer. It should also be ensured that their physical and financial performance is also improved to a great extent.

3.3 The Committee, therefore, recommends that this aspect must be included every year particularly in the Budget Document and Annual Report of the Department.

IV. NEW INITIATIVES/SCHEMES

4.3 After seeing the extent of coverage and allocation of the Scholarship scheme and performance of other such schemes, the Committee finds its apprehensions in this regard have come true. The Committee has been emphasizing about raising the numbers of scholarships/Associateships for higher education in a big way; it has expressed its reservations about the logic and efficacy of educational loans in our country. Such loans may help only a small number of students in elite institutions/sectors that fetch handsome salary; what about the large majority, particularly those students from poor families and other institutions. This problem is being compounded when IIMs/IITs are raising fees at prohibitive levels. Large majority of students in our country come from poor families and education is in social sector. The need, therefore, for government's control over deciding the fee can hardly be over-emphasized. While subsidizing educational loans may be welcome idea, the Committee recommends to increase the number of scholarships/assistance for poor students.

V. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCE STUDIES, SHIMLA

5.1 The Committee in its 193rd Report on Demands for Grants, 2007-08 had pointed out a number of irregularities found out in a special audit, particularly certain lacunae in the terms and conditions of grant of fellowship resulting in large number of fellows not submitting their monographs/research papers. The Institute could neither insist upon their submission nor take any action against them. In the absence of a provision to make the fellows accountable in such a situation, the institution suffered huge financial loss. Issue of unauthorized expenditure and blockage of huge fund due to slow progress of special repair and maintenance of its buildings was also pointed out by the Committee. These concerns of the Committee were communicated to the Institute by the Department who have maintained that Institute had a system of concurrent monitoring of research being conducted by its fellows and they are now making a six monthly review to monitor the progress by the experts. But the Institute has not said anything about to claim the money back from the defaulting fellows, as is being practised by the other Councils like ICHR. The Institute, however, had assured to initiate a revision of system of monitoring of its fellows to instill accountability in them as well as in the Institute administration so that such a situation did not arise in future. For this, the Governing Body of this Institute was scheduled to meet in October, 2007. But the Committee notes that the Governing body could not meet in October and its meeting which was held in February, 2008 could not arrive at any decision and the matter has been deferred for a future date. The Committee also observes that the financial performance of this Institute except for the year 2006-07 has not been upto the mark. In the year 2007-08, out of Rs.2.40 crore allocated under the Plan, only 60 lakh was spent till December, 2007. **In view of the position given above, the state of affairs in such an old and prestigious Institute does not present a very happy picture. The Committee is for the development and strengthening of this Institute which has had a glorious past. The Committee therefore, recommends that the Department should ensure that research work in this Institute is carried on without any hindrance and a system imbued with transparency and accountability in its functioning is put in place at the earliest. The Committee would like to have action taken note on the steps taken in this regard.**

VI. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

6.2 The Committee is dismayed to find under-utilization of funds for the Schemes under Distance Education as shown below:-

	BE 2007-08	RE 2007-08	Actual Expenditure till December, 2007
1. National Mission in Education through into & Communication Technology	502.00	0.00	0.00
2. IGNOU	108.00	108.00	40.00
Total	610.00	108.00	40.00

6.3 The Committee recommends that approval of the EFC and other procedural formalities need to be taken care of at the earliest for timely initiation of the Scheme.

6.4 The Committee reiterates its serious concern about under-utilization of funds for an important scheme like IGNOU. The Committee has been given to understand that a quarterly review meeting with the officers of IGNOU is arranged for each quarter of the financial year, at the level of Divisional Head in the Distance Learning & Scholarship Bureau to assess the achievements of physical and financial targets set by IGNOU. **The Committee would like to be apprised of the findings of this review meeting held recently regarding the achievement of IGNOU.**

6.5 In view of the fact of under utilization of funds, the Committee is of the opinion that the achievement of IGNOU is not at desirable level. The successful implementation of a scheme depends on optimum and judicious utilization of resources and achievements of set targets. Concerted efforts need to be made for meeting escalating demands for Higher Education through an efficient open and distance learning system in the country.

6.6 The Committee had raised the issues of non-availability of Internet and of books and study material in rural areas on time. The Department has made efforts towards providing a single window web based support services to the learners, network of 26 Gyanvani FM Radio Stations, making available audio-video programmes/cassettes/CDs at Regional Centres and Study Centres, tele-conferencing facility, tele-counseling sessions etc. These efforts of the Department would not help students having no access to Internet or students living in remote areas. The Committee is of the opinion that the IGNOU should ensure that required books and reading material are sent on time to the students. The Committee also recommends for expanding the network of Study Centres and improving the infrastructure of Centres for increased number of beneficiaries.

6.8 The Committee hopes that these fixed targets would be achieved by the Department within the stipulated time period of one year and with the funds available at hand.

6.10 The Committee believes that by identifying the problem areas, the Department has taken a step forward and should now look for solutions. Efforts for making available faculty for various

disciplines, preparatory exercise for launching region-based programmes etc. need to be done beforehand by the Department for effective and timely utilization of funds and resources.

VII. DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL (DEC)

7.1 The Committee supports this line of thinking of the Department but is not very happy with the pace of developments in this regard. Since DEC is a body under the IGNOU Act, many universities are not prepared to accept the DEC jurisdiction in recognizing/approving courses/degree offered by various universities/institutions. The Committee, in its earlier report had recommended for a separate Act for the DEC for making it a regulatory body for open university and open learning system and distance mode on the lines of UGC. DEC should be developed as an apex body for promoting, coordinating and determining standards in distance education.

7.2 According to the Committee, the matter has been under consideration since long. The proposal of a new Statutory Council i.e., a statutory DEC should be finalized at the earliest. DEC should be constituted as early as possible so as to act as a regulating body for maintaining the standard of distance education, accreditation matters etc. The Committee is also of the opinion that before finalising the proposal to set up the DEC, Central Universities and other Institutions of Higher Learning like the IIMs, IITs, etc. may also be consulted.

VIII. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)

8.3 The Committee is not aware about the reasons for lower allocation made to AICTE in 2008-09. The Committee can only emphasize that its mandate of funding of various technical programmes, regulating the functioning of technical institutions spread across the country, programmes for faculty development etc., should not suffer for want of funds.

8.6 These issues have time and again been pointed out by the Committee in the past. The Committee is also of the opinion that the AICTE Act in its present form has witnessed many weaknesses and it should be revamped at the earliest. This was emphasized by it as early as in 2001 in its 113th Report on Technical Education. The Committee is happy to note that the Department has finally taken a decision to review the functioning of AICTE. It hopes that the review would take into consideration all the shortcomings of the existing Act while simultaneously focussing on the upcoming challenges of technical education in India. The Committee is also in favour of devising a mechanism to ensure consultation with the States in this regard.

8.7 The Committee has been pursuing with the Department to work out a mechanism whereby something could be done on the issue of a number of seats remaining unfilled in the technical institutions every year. The Department has stated that a suitable mechanism was being worked out. The Committee desires that the Department in consultation with the States and other stakeholders should try to find a solution to this at the earliest.

IX. CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

9.2 The Committee's attention has been drawn to the fact that grants released to several institutions under Plan during 2007-08 have remained under-utilised. The position at the end of December, 2007 was as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme/Programme/Project	Budget Estimate	(Rs. in crores)	
			Revised Estimate	Actual upto December, 2007
1.	National Institutes of Tech. Teachers Trg. & Research	24.00	14.91	5.80
2.	School of Planning & Architecture	16.00	4.00	2.50
3.	Grants to IISc, Bangalore	196.00	40.00	25.00
4.	North-Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Itanagar	55.00	10.00	5.50
5.	IIT, Allahabad	42.00	22.00	9.00
6.	IIT, Jabalpur	25.00	11.00	5.50
7.	Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar	5.50	8.10	4.37

The Committee would like to know about the reasons for the position shown above regarding under-utilisation of funds.

9.4 The Committee is happy to note that the Department has been prompt enough to grant additional grants to the IITs in distress. The Committee believes that fund constraints should not be allowed to hinder the functioning of premier institutions like the IITs. Otherwise, they would have no option but to raise student fee which would be a restrictive step. The Committee, therefore, recommends that IITs must be given adequate funds at appropriate stages.

9.6 The Committee desires to know about the entire procedure of holding the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for the IITs in detail. Main points of the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court in the matter, as and when delivered, may also be provided to the Committee.

X. SCHEME FOR UPGRADING EXISTING POLYTECHNICS AND SETTING UP OF NEW POLYTECHNICS IN SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS

10.2 The Committee reiterates its persistent observation of expediting the procedural formalities prior to launching of a new scheme.

10.3 The Committee is for inclusion of more districts under the Scheme. It expresses its displeasure for not being able to get the scheme finalized during 2007-08. Besides, the allocation of Rs. 110 crores for the scheme is highly inadequate in view of the fact that more districts are going to be included as announced in 2007-08. The Committee, therefore, recommends that scheme be finalized and implemented this year and more funds be provided for this scheme.

XI. POLYTECHNICS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

11.2 The Committee is disheartened to note that during 2006-07 and 2007-08, 25 students in formal and 100 in non-formal streams could be admitted in 50 Polytechnics. The Committee notes that expansion of the scheme will be taken based on the Report of an Appraisal Committee. The Committee can understand that allocation of Rs.4 crore for 2008-09 can only be utilised after the formulation of the revised scheme. The Committee has serious doubt if the revised scheme can take off this year. The Committee is dismayed to see the manner in which the scheme is being treated. The Committee strongly feels that the Department will have to take urgent steps to reach out to persons with Disability and motivate them to take benefit of the scheme meant for them only. The Committee desires to be informed of the progress made in this regard.

XII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS

12.3 The Committee has noticed that during the Tenth Plan, trend of Plan fund allocation and utilisation thereof very clearly establishes that the scheme was not being administered as envisaged. The Committee strongly recommends that status of the scheme should change for the better during the Eleventh Plan. A beginning can be made by implementing the scheme in accordance with the suggestions made in the Appraisal Committee Report.

XIII. INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIM)

13.2 The Committee welcomes this initiative of the Department. This review, the Committee hopes, will help resolve several issues that have been in the centre of national debate in the recent years. The Committee found that terms of reference of the Bhargava Committee includes *inter alia* to review the existing fee structure in IIMs, use of their corpus funds and the number of scholarships/freeships, etc. This Committee appointed in October 2007 was supposed to submit its report within six months. It means that this Committee must be about to give its Report. The Committee fails to understand why some IIMs went ahead with raising their fees, without waiting for the Bhargava Committee Report. It strongly feels that in the future, no IIM should go ahead with increasing the fees before the Bhargava Committee submits its Report.

XIV. NEW INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

14.3 The Committee welcomes the decision to set up such a large number of premier institutions in the country that would certainly address the issue of access and quality to a great extent. What, however, worries the Committee is the massive efforts and resources that would be required for accomplishing it within the shortest possible time. Location of 4 IITs, 6 IIMs and 14 world class universities are yet to be finalised. The Committee is also concerned as to how the Department would fulfill its financial commitments in this regard given the fact that allocations during 2008-09 have been at their lowest. Most of the resources would go in implementing OBC reservation that has been given go ahead now. It is believed that the very basic formalities may perhaps not be completed during the year. The Department will be under tremendous pressure and the Committee feels that if it proceeds in a time-bound manner and gets required resources, task ahead should not be very difficult to fulfill.

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XV. STUDY VISIT OF THE COMMITTEE

15.3 The Committee would like the Department to furnish brief but-to-the-point response on each of these issues/demands alongwith the action are being taken or could be taken in these respects.

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XVI. DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGES

16.3 The Committee would like the Department to furnish a detailed note on the targets fixed and achievements, both physical and financial, for the Development of Languages in the last three years. The difficulties faced by the Department in this regard may also be furnished for perusal of the Committee.

16.4 The Committee notes that the new schemes announced in 2007-08 for setting up of National Translation Mission, Linguistic Survey of India, Centre for Palli & Buddhist Studies and Scheme for Development of Minor and Endangered Indian Languages are at various stages of approval. **The Committee would appreciate if these formalities could be expedited and the schemes be implemented at the earliest during 2008-09 itself.**

MINUTES VI SIXTH MEETING

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, the 27th March, 2008 in Committee Room No. 'A', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Janardan Dwivedi ¾ *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. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

LOK SABHA

8. Shri Basudeb Barman
9. Shri Harisinh Chavda
10. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
11. Smt. Archana Nayak
12. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
13. Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh

14. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
15. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
16. Shri Francis K. George

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SECRETARIAT

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

LIST OF WITNESSES

Department of Higher Education

1. Shri R.P. Agrawal, Secretary
2. Shri K.M. Acharya, Special Secretary
3. Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain, Joint Secretary
4. Shri Ravi Mathur, Joint Secretary
5. Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary
6. Shri N.K. Sinha, Joint Secretary
7. Shri S.K. Ray, JS&FA
8. Dr. Vijay P. Goel, DDG
9. Dr. Sukhdev Thorat, Chairman, UGC
10. Prof. R.A. Yadav, Chairman (Acting), AICTE
11. Prof. V.N. Rajashekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU
12. Prof. Ved Prakash, Vice Chancellor, NUEPA
13. Shri Hulas Singh, Director
14. Ms. Seema Raj, Director
15. Shri Madan Mohan, Director
16. Shri Vijay Bharat, Director
17. Ms. Pratima Dikshit, Director
18. Ms. Kalpana Singh, Deputy Secretary
19. Shri S.K. Sharma, Director
20. Shri B. Anand, Director
21. Dr. H. Bhatt, Director
22. Shri G. Raghvendra, Deputy Secretary
23. Ms. Rashmi Choudhary, Director
24. Shri Hasib Ahmad, Director
25. Shri R.D. Sahay, Director
26. Shri U. Basu, Director
27. Shri Anil Kapoor, Director
28. Shri P.R. Ramaswamy, Director
29. Shri R. Chakraborty, Director
30. Shri S. Mohan, Deputy Secretary

9. Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
10. Shrimati Nivedita Sambhajirao Mane
11. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
12. Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh
13. Dr. Meinya Thokchom
14. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma

SECRETARIAT

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Smt Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary

Shri N.K. Singh, Director

Shri J. Sundriyal, Joint Director

Shri Sanjay Singh, Committee Officer

2. The Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee and sought their suggestions on the draft Reports on Demands for Grants 2008-09 pertaining to the (i) *** (ii) Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. After some discussion the Committee adopted the reports with certain modifications. The Committee decided to present/lay the Reports in both the Houses on the 17th April, 2008 and authorised the Chairman to nominate members from both the Houses to present/lay the Reports.

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4. The Committee then adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

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***Relates to other matter