



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA RAJYA SABHA

214

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

TWO HUNDRED – FOURTEENTH REPORT

ON

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN
THE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTH REPORT ON
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2008-2009 (DEMAND NO. 58)
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
(THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2009)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2009)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
OCTOBER, 2009/ KARTIKA, 1931 (SAKA)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON HRD
(2009-10)**

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

1. Shri Oscar Fernandes — *Chairman*
2. Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan
3. Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai
4. Shri Vijaykumar Rupani
5. Shri M. Rama Jois
6. Shri Penumalli Madhu
7. Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari
8. Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran
9. Shri N.K. Singh
10. Dr. Janardhan Waghmare

LOK SABHA

11. Shri Suresh Angadi
12. Shri Kirti Azad
13. Shri P.K. Biju
14. Shri Jitendrasingh Bundela
15. Shrimati J. Helen Davidson
16. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar
17. Shri Rahul Gandhi
18. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
19. Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav
20. Shri Suresh Kalmadi
21. Shri P. Kumar
22. Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar
23. Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad
24. Shri Sis Ram Ola
25. Dr. Vinay Kumar Pandey
26. Shri Tapas Paul
27. Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh
28. Shri Ashok Tanwar
29. Shri Joseph Toppo
30. Shri P. Viswanathan
31. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi

SECRETARIAT

Shri N.C. Joshi, Secretary
Smt. Vandana Garg, Additional Secretary
Shri M.K. Khan, Director
Shri Arun Sharma, Joint Director
Shri Sanjay Singh, Assistant Director

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- fourteenth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Two Hundred-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (Demand No. 58) of the Department of Higher Education for the year 2008-09. The Action Taken Report contains only those paragraphs which entailed recommendations/observations and it leaves the narration.

2. The Two Hundred-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha on 15th April, 2008 and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on the 17th April, 2008. Replies of the Government to the recommendations/observations contained in the Report, were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 30th October, 2009.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same at its meeting held on the 30th October, 2009.

NEW DELHI;
OCTOBER 30, 2009
KARTIKA 8, 1931 (SAKA)

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

REPORT

The Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in its Two Hundred Seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Demands for Grants (Demand No. 58) of the Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development) for the year 2008-09.

2. Action Taken Notes received from the Government in respect of the recommendations contained in the 207th Report, have been categorized as follows:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government-paras

2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 3.3, 6.6, 6.10, & 8.6

(Chapter-I) Total - 7

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply-paras

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.21, 2.22, 2.23, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.7, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 11.1, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 13.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 16.1, 16.3 & 16.4

(Chapter-II) Total – 54

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee-paras

2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 2.20, 2.24, 2.25, 2.26, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 6.4, 6.9, 7.1, 7.2, 8.4, 8.5, 9.6, 11.2, 13.2 & 16.2

(Chapter III) Total – 25

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government are still awaited.

(Chapter IV) Total - Nil

CHAPTER-I

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

II. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The Pay Review Committee has since submitted its report to UGC on 3.10.2008, which has since been implemented. Based on the recommendations of a Pay Review Committee constituted by UGC, the Ministry has announced a package comprising revised pay scales and emoluments as well as certain quality oriented prescriptions for ensuring that bright young candidates are attracted and also retained in teaching profession. It is also proposed to start a new scheme of Professor of Eminence so as to encourage and reward top level faculty.

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Vacancies

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The Ministry wishes to reassure the Committee that efforts will be made to expeditiously fill up the remaining backlog of reserved vacancies in teaching positions for the SC and the ST categories in Central Universities for ensuring this it would be vigorously followed up with all the institutions.

Recommendations/observations

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.**

Action Taken

The concern of the Committee regarding large number of SC/ST posts not having been filled by Delhi University was communicated to the University. The Ministry has been constantly reminding all Central Universities including Delhi University for filling up backlog posts of SCs/STs.

While conveying the concern expressed by the Committee vide this Ministry's letter dated 16th June, 2008, regarding the backlog of vacancies of SCs/STs existing in the University of Delhi, the Vice-Chancellor was advised to issue suitable instructions to all concerned for taking immediate action for filling up of all vacant teaching posts as this is a constitutional obligation.

The University of Delhi has informed that advertisements for filling up the backlog vacancies have been published on 12-3-2008, 10-4-2008, 25-4-2008 and 22-5-2008. The applications received by the University of Delhi in response to the above advertisements have been forwarded by the University to concerned departments for screening of applications. Screening of applications has been completed by most of the Departments. Interviews have commenced w.e.f. 10th November, 2008.

III. WOMEN AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Recommendations/observations

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.**

Action Taken

The Ministry has broadly disaggregated budget provision into two parts i.e. (i) expenditure whose beneficiaries are women/girls, (ii) Pro-women Schemes (30% or more beneficiaries are women). Accordingly, schemes benefiting women are reflected in the Expenditure Budget Vol. I prepared by the Ministry of Finance. As suggested by the Hon'ble Committee, a separate Section/Chapter on women will be included every year in future in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

UGC has been advised to make separate allocation and monitoring for women-specific schemes, as part of Gender Budgeting exercise, and not to club them under its General Development Grants Scheme. So far as the inclusion of gender budgeting in the Annual Report of this Department is concerned, it is submitted that lump sum grants are provided to UGC to implement its various schemes, and scheme-wise allocation are not made by this Ministry. Lumpsum grants provide flexibility to the UGC to make judicious earmarking for its various schemes according priority to schemes for women and other disadvantaged sections.

VI. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

Recommendations/observations

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.**

Action Taken

On the request of the Department, IGNOU has informed that the despatch of the entire study material to the students throughout the country was centralized and was being dispatched from the Headquarters Office. There have been certain difficulties in the study material reaching the students in time, owing to the facts like geographical distances, the postal delays, change of the residential addresses by the students. Keeping in view the interest of the students, it has therefore, been decided to decentralize the distribution of the study material of all the programmes and entrust the responsibility to the Regional Centres of the University. The Regional Centres shall utilize the services of the Postal Deptt. as far as possible. They may also utilize Courier services in all Metros

to supplement the postal services. It is hoped, the decentralization will help mitigate the above difficulties to a great deal and students would not be required to rush their complaints/ grievances relating to the delays and non-delivery of study material to the Hqrs. at New Delhi.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

In response to our request to IGNOU, the University has informed that they have taken a policy decision to implement a number of Region based and Region specific programmes for the benefit of the society.

VIII. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The suggestions of the Hon'ble Committee has been communicated to the Committee set up by the MHRD to review the functioning of the AICTE under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal.

CHAPTER-II

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

I. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

Recommendations/observations

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
<i>Plan</i>	6480.50	3261.35
Non-Plan	2729.00	3136.01
Total	9209.50	6397.36

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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%)

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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

Recommendations/observations

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

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on Paras 1.4 to 1.6

So far as the implementation of various schemes / programmes are concerned, the implementation is being regularly monitored by the Ministry at different levels. Necessary instructions have been issued to the organizations for speeding up the pace of expenditure. The concern of the Hon'ble Committee has been noted and efforts have been stepped up in the Ministry for monitoring the pace of expenditure by Organisations as per the targets.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The number of UCs outstanding as on 1-4-2006 were 4965 for Rs.6936.53 crore in respect of the Department of Higher Education of Ministry of HRD whereas 941 UCs of Rs.6479.71 crore became due for the Grants released during the year 2006-07, thus the total number of 5906 UCs of Rs.13416.24 crore became due as on 31-3-2007. The number of UCs received during the year 2006-07 were 2581 for Rs.6685 crore. Therefore, the number of UCs remaining outstanding as on 1-4-2007 was 3325 of Rs.6730.39 crore.

The number of UCs becoming due in respect of grants released during the year 2007-08 was 457 of Rs.4330.86 crore, thus making the total number of UCs due as on 31-3-2008 as 3782 of Rs.11061.25 crore, 1060 UCs of Rs.9257.99 crore were received during the year 2007-08. Therefore, the number of UCs remaining outstanding as on 1-4-2008 was 2722 of Rs.1803.26 crore.

It may be appreciated that Department is making considerable progress in clearing the current UCs. The matter of outstanding UCs is being discussed/monitored in the Bureau Heads meeting on regular basis, and efforts are made that to impress on the various institutions that fresh grants may not get released unless all the past UCs are liquidated.

The observations of the Committee have been noted.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The observations of the Committee have been noted. Efforts are being made to reduce the unspent balances to the minimum. Further release of grants has been linked to receipt of Utilization certificate.

II. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Audit Paragraphs

Recommendations/observations

2.8 The Committee's attention was drawn to the audit paragraph regarding injudicious release of 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 Ed.CIL 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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 2.8-2.10

The UGC has informed that it has taken corrective steps in regard to the observation of the audit on irregular award of construction work to Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed.CIL). It is submitted that the CAG report has since been examined by the Public Accounts Committee(PAC) and that Committee's report on "irregular award of construction work" and "injudicious release of grants by the UGC" have been taken up for follow-up action based on the observations and recommendations of the PAC. According to the revised agreement, the Consultancy charges payable to Ed.CIL were reduced to 8.75% from the earlier level of 9.5%, which will address the issues pertaining to the interest earned by Ed.CIL on the mobilization advance and other related aspects. Accordingly the UGC and Ed.CIL have entered into a revised agreement. Similarly, the UGC has been advised by the Ministry that the approval of the EFC would be required for the project work for its building complex, which had been entrusted to Ed.CIL by the Commission. The Ministry submits that as advised by the Hon'ble Standing Committee, it would endeavor to ensure that the UGC does not repeat such irregularities and procedural lapses in future. As regards the CAG para on injudicious release of grants to 24 Universities, the University Grants Commission has informed that the procedure for release of grants is being streamlined.

Similarly, the issues relating to Viswa Bharati referred to in para 2.9 find mention in Report No. 3 (Autonomous Bodies Performance Audit) of 2007 of the C&AG of India for the year ended 31st March, 2006. While draft Action Taken Report is awaited from the University, it has been reported to the Ministry that the University has undertaken a project for preparation of a GIS based Detailed Campus Map and Estate Management system, in pursuance of the recommendation in this behalf contained in the Performance Audit Report as also in the report submitted by the High Level Committee (HLC) on Viswa Bharati constituted by the former President. The University has since made an advance payment of Rs.1,20,500 to the National Remote Sensing Agency for procurement of high resolution satellite data for the Viswa Bharati campus and the adjoining areas.

Recommendations/observations

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 Nano Sciences. 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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 2.11 – 2.12

It is submitted that the special position of these great academic institutions was considered, and basically the decisions taken by the Expenditure Finance Committee, as approved by the Government, formed the basis of release of funds to these universities. The pace of releases is essentially dependent on the extent of utilization of funds by the Universities. According to the UGC, it has sanctioned an 'on- account' grant of Rs 30 crore to each of these three Universities and it was informed to the 3 universities that they should give continuous feedback of their expenditure so that additional releases could be

effected to them. The observations of the Hon'ble Committee, to expedite releases has been brought to the notice of UGC and the Commission has been asked to ensure compliance.

Deemed-to-be- Universities

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

It is submitted that the declaration of institutions as deemed to be universities is done by the Central Government after careful consideration of the recommendation made by the University Grants Commission, which, in turn, bases its recommendations on the opinion of Expert Committees which assess the proposals.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

Revised guidelines of the UGC for declaration of institutions to be deemed to be universities are being finalized by the Commission. It is also submitted that even at present State Governments are consulted by the UGC in all cases, and the Ministry has repeated its request to States during the Conference of State Ministers in July, 2008 that the views of the State Governments in regard to proposals should be made available to the UGC within a reasonable time period. All efforts are taken by the UGC to obtain comments of the State Governments. However, when the State Government fails to respond to the issue within a period of 3 months, the proposal is considered by the Central Government on merits based on all other available information and recommendations of the Commission.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

It is submitted that as the Hon'ble Committee is aware, institutions are declared to be deemed universities on UGC's recommendation under the provisions of Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. The Commission bases its recommendations on advice tendered by Experts and Statutory Councils. It follows the procedure laid down in UGC guidelines, for ensuring that only those institutions, which are engaged in higher education and satisfy the stringent norms as prescribed under the UGC guidelines are considered for grant of status of deemed university. Since the power for declaration is delegated by Parliament to the Central Government under Section 3 of the UGC Act, it is submitted that the Ministry can not and does not bypass the Parliament.

IV. NEW INITIATIVES/SCHEMES

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 4.1- 4.3

It is submitted that the Ministry has launched the National Merit Scholarship Scheme, under which 41000 boys and 41000 girls are proposed to be provided on the basis of their performance in the XII examination, a scholarship of Rs.10000 per year for the first 3 years of the undergraduate studies and at the rate of Rs.20000 per year thereafter.

VI. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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 information & Communication Technology	502.00	0.00	0.00
2.	IGNOU	108.00	108.00	40.00
Total		610.00	108.00	40.00

Action Taken

The B.E. (2007-08) was Rs.108.00 crore and the R.E. was also kept at the same level. The availability of huge unspent balance (i.e. Rs.29.44 crore) with IGNOU, was the reason for lower release to the University till December, 2007. The allocation of Rs.502.00 crore for National Mission in Education through ICT could not be utilized, which was a new proposed scheme under XI Plan, as the requisite approval of the competent authorities were not available. The Planning Commission approved the 11th plan proposals on 08.4.2008 and thereafter all the requisite approvals have been obtained and the Mission was launched on 3-2-09.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The Mission has been launched on 3-2-2009.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The concern of the Hon'ble Committee and its recommendation has been conveyed to IGNOU.

Recommendations/observations

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

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 6.7- 6.8

IGNOU has been accordingly apprised.

VIII. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The budget allocation for AICTE schemes under Plan allocation has increased from Rs.100 crores in 2007-08 to 167 crores in 2008-09. Earlier the grant for NIT & AICTE was shown under one head. However, from this financial year 2008-09, the grants to NITs are released separately. As such the total allocation to AICTE appears reduced.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The AICTE was advised to work out a suitable mechanism. A Committee has been constituted by the AICTE to look into the matter. Based on its recommendations, the Council shall initiate necessary measures to address this issue.

IX. CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No Action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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 :-

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/Programme/Project	Budget Estimate	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.

Action Taken

The factual position is given in detail for all the above 7 institutions:

1. National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTRs)

As per the budget allocation of NITTTRs for the year 2007-08, out of Rs. 24.00 crore, an amount of Rs. 12.00 crore was earmarked for the implementation of the OSC recommendations. As the matter was sub-judice, the earmarked funds for implementation of OSC recommendations could not be released to any Centrally Funded Organization. NITTTRs were provided with Rs. 14.91 crore at the Revised Estimate stage and out of this, they were able to utilize Rs. 14.70 crore by the end of the financial year 2007-08. However, due to less demand of funds for activities of NE States, the NER fund could not be utilized in toto, which resulted in a saving of Rs. 20.00 lakh.

2. SPA, New Delhi

Rs.10.00 crore included in BE 2007-08 was for implementing reservation for Other Backward Classes. This amount could not be spent because of stay by Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further, there was saving of Rs.2.00 crore because the work with regard to new campus at Vasant Kunj could not be started.

3. IISc, Bangalore

In the Budget Estimate, Rs.106.00 crore was provided for general programmes and Rs.90.00 crore was provided for implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations for OBC reservations. The implementation of the Recommendations of Oversight Committee could not take place in 2007-08 as the matter was sub-judice.

4. North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Itanagar

The actual Budget Estimate for the year 2007-08 was Rs. 5.50 crore, which was subsequently raised to Rs.10.00 crore at RE stage. The entire RE allocation was made available to the Institute. Hence there was no saving.

5. IIT, ALLAHABAD

In the Budget Estimate of the Institute, Rs.30.00 crore was provided for implementation of the Oversight Committee Recommendations for OBC reservations. The implementation of the Recommendations of the Oversight Committee could not take place in 2007-08 as the matter was sub-judice. As such, the funds meant for this could not be utilized. However, for the development of a campus at Allahabad and Amethi additional grant of Rs.10 crores was released.

6. IIT, JABALPUR

In the Budget Estimate of the Institute, Rs.14.00 crore was provided for implementation of Oversight Committee Recommendation for OBC reservations. The implementation of the recommendations of Oversight Committee could not take place in the year 2007-08 as the matter was subjudice. Hence the funds could not be utilized.

7. Central Institute of Technology (CIT), Kokrajhar

The Budget Estimate for the year 2007-08 was Rs. 5.50 crore which was subsequently raised to Rs. 8.10 crore at RE stage. The entire RE allocation was made available to the Institute. Hence there was no saving.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken for Para 9.3 & 9.4

An ad-hoc increase of Rs.145.50 crore has been approved in the case of IITs and IISc. Bangalore for each of the financial year 2007-08 and 2008-09. The entire amount of ad-hoc increase in the Block Grant of Rs.145.50 crore in respect of IITs and IISc Bangalore meant for financial year 2007-08 has been released (Rs.69.84 crore in 2007-08 and Rs.75.66 crore in 2008-09). Ad-hoc increase in the Block Grant of IITs and IISc. Bangalore for the financial year 2008-09 will be released alongwith the normal Non-Plan Grant for the year 2008-09 after RE 2008-2009 is approved.

A high level committee to go into financial and accounting related issues of IITs and IISc. Bangalore, e.g. norms for revenue generation, assessment of accumulated deficit, ways of eliminating it, annual block grant which should be fixed for the remaining four years of the 11th Plan, and reforms necessary in the institutions' accounting system so that their financial data is maintained in a uniform and transparent manner, has been constituted.

Recommendations/observations

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*.

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

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on Paras 10.1 to 10.3

A Scheme for Upgradation of existing Polytechnics/ Setting up of new polytechnics in Special Identified Districts (SIDs) was under consideration of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission desired to have a Comprehensive Scheme for establishment of 1000 polytechnics in place of 65 polytechnics in SIDs. Accordingly, a scheme was

prepared and sent to the Planning Commission for setting up of 1000 Polytechnics and Strengthening of existing polytechnics.

Accordingly, in pursuance of Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement to launch a Skill Development Mission in his Independence Day Speech in 2007, Planning Commission proposed that the Skill Development Mission will comprise four sub-missions as under: -

- i) Industrial Training
- ii) Polytechnics
- iii) Vocational Education
- iv) Unorganized Sector

In the Sub-Mission on Polytechnics, it was proposed to undertake the following during XI Plan period: -

- a) Establishment of New Polytechnics
- b) Strengthening of Existing Polytechnics
- c) Expansion of Community Polytechnic Scheme
- d) Support to Engineering Colleges for Diploma Courses
- e) Construction of Women's Hostel in Polytechnics.

Under the above Sub-Mission on Polytechnics, it is proposed to establish 1000 new polytechnics to be added during 11th Plan period with breakup as under:-

- 300 Polytechnics in Government Sector covering educationally backward districts which are either unserved or underserved in terms of Polytechnic intake capacity;
- 300 Polytechnics through Public Private Partnership (PPP); and
- 400 Private Polytechnics.

The Scheme has been approved and a sum of Rs.100.00 crore has already been released to the State Governments.

XI. POLYTECHNICS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

XII. SCHEME OF COMMUNITY POLYTECHNICS

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on Paras 12.1 – 12.3

An Appraisal Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ranjit Singh, Chairman, All India Board of Vocational Education, AICTE to evaluate the scheme and work out modalities for its continuation in the XI Plan. Accordingly EFC in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Secretary (Exp.) on April 2008 has approved the same. The matter was considered and approved by CCEA. The revamped Community Polytechnic Scheme guidelines have been released on 3-2-2009 and the scheme has been relaunched in its revamped form.

XIII. INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIM)

Recommendations/observations

13.1 A plan allocation of Rs. 98 crores (inclusive of NER allocation) has been made for Indian Institutes of Management (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.

Action Taken

IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Kolkata are not receiving any grant from the Ministry since 2004-05. An amount of Rs.6.00 crore, Rs.14.50 crore, Rs.10.00 crore has been released to IIMs at Lucknow, Indore and RGIIM, Shillong respectively during 2008-09. The proposal for release of Rs.4.54 crore to IIM, Indore is under process.

So far, an amount of Rs.49.57 crore has been released to IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata, Lucknow, Indore and Kozhikode during 2008-09 for implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations.

IIM Review Committee to review the functioning of IIMs under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Udyog Limited has been set up vide Resolution dated 17.10.2007 to submit its report within six months. Subsequently, vide Ministry's Resolutions dated 23.05.2008 and 25.07.2008 the term of the Committee was further extended to submit its report to the Government by 17.10.2007. The Committee has finally submitted its report to the Ministry on 17.10.2008. Report has been put on the website of the Ministry for inviting comments of the IIMs and other stakeholders. On receipt of the same, they will be analysed in the Ministry and a view could be taken.

XIV. NEW INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

Recommendations/observations

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 XI 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 IITs and 10 NITs is also under formulation.

Action Taken

No action is called for.

Recommendations/observations

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 XI Plan.

Action Taken

With the approval of Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister, an Expert committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.N.R.Rao, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to prepare a draft of the Scheme "Establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology". One meeting of the Committee has been held on 17th October, 2008.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

Setting up of new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)

Government have decided to set up eight new IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (Indore) and Himachal Pradesh. Out of these 8, Classes for B.Tech. courses have been started from July-August, 2008 in 6 new IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab and Gujarat. These are being mentored by the existing IITs in Madras, Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Delhi and Bombay respectively. Classes of IIT Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat have been started from temporary premises while the classes of Rajasthan, Orissa and Punjab have been started from the campuses of their respective mentoring IITs.

An allocation of Rs.2000 crore has been provided in the XI Plan and Rs.50 crore has been allocated for 2008-09 for new IITs. Rs.2.50 crore has been released to each of six new IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab and Gujarat. Government has finalized the sites of all the new IITs except for the IIT in Gujarat.

Setting up of new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)

The XI Five Year Plan envisages establishment of seven new IIMs in the country, out of which one IIM namely Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RGIIM), Shillong has been established in Shillong (Meghalaya) which commenced its first academic session from 2008-09 and the remaining six IIMs will be set up in Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Uttarakhand & Haryana.

The Government of Haryana has identified District Rohtak. The Government of Tamil Nadu has identified Suriyur village, Tiruchirappalli Taluk and District. The Government of Chhattisgarh has identified two locations namely Pota and Cheriya. The Government of Jharkhand has identified two sites namely Narayanpur and in circle Baliapur, Mouza-Dhangi, Karmatand, District-Dhanbad and Kanke circle, Mouza Nagri, District-Ranchi. The Site Selection Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Addl. Secretary (HE) has given its recommendations for the locations of new IIMs at Rohtak, Haryana, Tirichirapalli, Tamil Nadu and Raipur, Chattisgarh.

XV. STUDY VISIT OF THE COMMITTEE

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 15.1 & 15.3

With respect to IIT, Chennai

- (i) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is releasing sufficient funds to all the IITs to meet their Plan and Non-Plan requirements. Under Plan, against the RE of Rs.400.00 crore during 2007-08, the BE proposed for 2008-09 is Rs.1171.00 crore (including OSC component) for the seven existing IITs. Many a times, the next installment cannot be released because of non expenditure by the IIT concerned, under Plan. Under Non-Plan also, although the IITs are covered under Block Grant Scheme, to meet their requirement ad-hoc increase of Rs.130.30 crore has been effected from 2007-08. A Block Grant Committee set up by the Ministry is looking into the matter of Non-Plan requirement of IITs and their report is expected in the next one month.
- (ii) It may be mentioned that being a fully Central funded Institute, IIT Chennai is not getting State Government aid for infrastructure. Of course the land was allotted free of cost by the State Government initially.

- (iii) The IITs are fully autonomous Institutes of National Importance and they are fully empowered to appoint qualified and competent faculty. The Ministry, even at IIT Council Meeting took this as an Agenda Item and it was decided to have certain proactive actions to attract Indian students who are doing PhDs or Post doctoral work in USA, Europe and Japan etc., IITs have also been using suitable industry personnel for teaching as adjunct faculty. The IITs also give contract appointments to foreign faculty.
- (iv) & (v) The IITs are fully autonomous Institutes of National Importance and they are fully free to have interaction with industry etc., and the has generally been encouraging the IITs to have a continuous interface with the industry.

With respect to IIM, Kolkata

- (i) IIM, Kolkata has not been receiving any grant from the Ministry since 2004-05 because a Corpus fund amounting to more than Rs.50.00 crore available with them.
- (ii) However, an amount of Rs.258.75 lakh has been released as first instalment to IIM, Kolkata during 2008-09 for expansion of infrastructure to implement the recommendations of Oversight Committee for admission of OBC students. Additional funds will be released on receipt of Detailed Project Report (DPR) from IIM, Calcutta.
- (iii) In recent time due to sky rocketing salaries in industries, a large number of Ph.D qualified persons in different fields of management prefer to join industry thus leading to a shortage of faculty in the Institute. The expansion planned to implement the OBC reservation policy would exacerbate the faculty shortage issue. However, this Ministry has enhanced the age of superannuation from 62 to 65 years for teaching positions in centrally funded institutions in higher and technical education.
- (iv) IIM, Kolkata has been giving attention to the issue of making its educational programmes relevant to industry through a variety of mechanisms like inviting guest faculty from industry to teach in the programmes, summer internship, project work as part of variety of courses, involving company executives (alumni) in the admission interview process and interaction with company executives during programme design and revision. Institute's faculty members revise their courses periodically to reflect the needs of industry.
- (v) The faculty members of IIM, Kolkata revise their courses periodically to reflect the needs of industry. The Institute has been giving attention to the issue of making its educational programmes relevant to industry involving company executives (alumni) in the admission interview process and interaction with company executives during programme design and revision.

Further, with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of HRD, a Pay Committee for Faculty and Scientific/Design Staff of Central Technical Institutes has been constituted with following term of reference:

- (a) Review the implementation of the previous decisions of the Council of IITs/Government under the scheme of revision of pay scales approved for Faculty, Scientific/Design Staff and other Academic Staff of Central Technical Institutes under the Ministry of HRD and in the process to evaluate the extent to which the earlier recommendations in relation to coverage, pay scales, qualifications & experience, mode of recruitment, conditions of service etc., have been implemented;
- (b) Examine the present structure of emoluments and conditions of service of Faculty, Scientific/Design Staff and other Academic Staff taking into account the total benefits available like pension, accommodation, medical facilities etc., and
- (c) Make recommendations for revised pay scales, qualification & experience, mode of recruitment, conditions of service etc., keeping in view the necessity of attracting and retaining the best talents.
- (d) The report has since been received and is under the consideration of the Ministry.

Action Taken on Paras 15.2 & 15.3

These are State Universities. While the quantum of Development Grant is determined by the UGC based on its appraisal of the demand and utilization of earlier grants to the Universities, it is a fact that each of these Universities received Rs.20 crore towards their Nanotechnology projects in February & March, 2008. Thus, a total of Rs.30 crore each has been disbursed as on 30-3-2008.

Since University officers like Registrars, Finance Officers and Center Examiners are administrative posts, it was decided to keep them outside the purview of the UGC Pay Review Committee. The Committee has already submitted its report to the UGC on 3-10-2008 and it has since been implemented.

XVI. DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGES

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The Language Division was allocated Rs. 117.50 (crore) in BE 2007-08 and the RE 2007-08 was Rs. 120.06 crore during 2007-08. As indicated by the Committee the allocation of Rs.170.06 crore includes the allocation of Rs 50.00 crores for the Scheme of Area Intensive and Madrassa Modernisation Programme which is not being dealt in Language Division. This was operated by the University and Higher Education Bureau during the year under discussion and now being operated by the Department of School Education and Literacy. After excluding the allocation of Rs. 50.00 crores from Rs. 170.06 crores, the allocation of Language Division is Rs. 120.06 crores. By 31.3.2008 the expenditure was Rs. 105.78 (crore) which is 88.11% of the amount allocated in RE 2007-08. The allocation was also made for the new schemes i.e National Translation Mission for Rs.0.90 crore, Linguistic Survey of India for Rs. 5.00 crore and Scheme for Development of Pali and Prakrit for Rs. 1.00 crore. But these schemes could not be approved during 2007-08 and the amount allocated for these schemes could not be utilized.

Further the scheme of Appointment of Language Teachers was dropped by Planning Commission for inclusion in the XI Five Year Plan. Later on, on the intervention of Hon.ble HRM, the scheme was restored. In the absence of proposals from State Governments an amount of Rs.6.98 crore (upto December 2007) out of Rs. 17.50 crore only could be utilized.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The statement showing the Physical Targets fixed and achievement is at **Annexure-III**. During the year, with the approval of Hon'ble HRM, the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language shifted from Vadodra to Delhi. Due to sealing of premise in Delhi, the Council was again shifted from Safdarjung Enclave where it was located in a rented building to R.K.Puram, in the premises of Central Hindi Directorate. The allocations made for three new schemes as mentioned in reply to para 16.1 could not be utilized as approval could not be obtained.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The scheme of National Translation Mission was approved by the Government in May 2008 and the action has started for implementation of the scheme. The scheme of New Linguistic Survey of India was dropped by the Government. The scheme of Development of Pali and Prakrit is under active consideration of the Government.

CHAPTER-III

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

II. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Recommendations/observations

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

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 2.4 - 2.6

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has formulated an 'e-governance' project to provide for inter-connectivity between UGC, its Regional Offices and the Universities. This will facilitate on-line compilation/updating of records.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee points out that the Ministry has failed to give the details of funds allocation and pending UCs with the Universities, even after extension of time sought for the purpose. This shows lack of seriousness on the part of the Ministry towards the accountability of Government funds and is an indication of poor fiscal management. It would like the Ministry to initiate an enquiry into the matter and share the report with the Committee at the earliest. The Committee appreciates the formulation of an 'e-governance' project by UGC and hopes that system is put into practice by all the Regional Offices and Universities so as to facilitate quick compilation/updation of records.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The UGC has reported that the following Committees are expected to furnish their reports shortly:-

5. Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Gnanam on Academic and Administrative Reforms.
6. Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. P. Thyagarajan on Reforms of Affiliating System.
7. Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. K.B. Powar to prepare action plan indicating the modes of Public Private Partnership which can be entered into for promotion of higher education in the country.

Apart from the above, the status in respect of two other Committees constituted by the Commission are reported to be as under:-

- (i) Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. G.K. Chadha, to review the pay structure of the teachers in the Universities and Colleges. The Committee has since submitted the report, which has been implemented by the Government with some modifications.
- (ii) Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, UGC, for upgradation of curriculum at UG and PG level, uniformity in curriculum with a view to ensure horizontal mobility of students between universities. The work of the Committee is in progress.

Another Committee was constituted by the UGC for preparation of Detailed Project Report for Central Universities to include issues like Act, Statutes, Ordinances and faculties and the educational reforms which can be made as a part of the Central University. Based on the report of the Committee, a suitable Bill was prepared and introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2008 for the establishment of Central universities in hitherto uncovered States. Subsequently, after incorporating most of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, an Ordinance was got promulgated for the establishment of 15 Central Universities. A bill is being introduced in the Parliament in its February Session for getting the required approval of the Parliament for replacing the Ordinance with the Act.

In so far as the Ministry's views on recommendations made by UGC Committees are concerned, it is submitted that the Commission has the authority to frame regulations under the UGC Act, 1956 on academic matters without any reference or approval of the Central Government. However, in respect of Committees constituted for non-academic matters, the regulations to be framed by the Commission based on the recommendations of the Experts Committees constituted by it, would require the prior approval of the Central Government, which will be considered as soon as the relevant reports are forwarded by the Commission.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is of the opinion that a long list of Committees constituted is indicative of the plethora of issues which remained unresolved or needed to be reviewed in the field of higher education. It hopes that these respective Committees would expedite their Reports and action thereupon by the Department should be taken with utmost priority as those issues are of vital importance for improving the quality of higher education in the country.

Vacancies in Central Universities

Recommendations/observations

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, Mahatama 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.

Action Taken

In so far as the University of Allahabad is concerned, the UGC has since furnished the requisite information indicating break-up of the vacant posts vis-à-vis the sanctioned posts at different levels. Based on the information furnished by the UGC, the position emerges as under:

	<u>Professor</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sanctioned Posts	59	149	330	538
Vacant posts	51	70	95	216

According to the information furnished by the University of Allahabad, the vacant posts have since been advertised. In response, approximately 15000 applications have been received and the screening of applications has since been completed. The University has already started holding Selection Committee Meetings, commencing w.e.f. 17-11-2008 and appointments in certain Department have since been made and the work is still in progress.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee has time and again been drawing the attention of Government towards large number of vacancies particularly in teaching positions of the Central Universities; quality of education has been the major causality as a result thereof. More than 200 vacancies alone in Allahabad University is quite alarming. The Committee has not been apprised about the latest position of filling up of vacancies in Assam University, University of Hyderabad, North-Eastern Hill University, Mahatma Gandhi Antrarashtriya Vishvavidyalaya, Tripura University, Pudicherry University and Nagaland University. The Committee would like to know the details of sanctioned posts *vis-a-vis* the vacant posts in all Central Universities, university-wise for a better appraisal of the faculty position.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

It is submitted that out of 30 new Central Universities, 12 Central Universities – one each in the hitherto uncovered States, except Goa – are proposed to be established shortly for which an Ordinance was also promulgated on 15-1-2009 with the Presidential assent to the Ordinance. The setting up of the remaining 14 Central Universities, aiming at achieving world class standards, will take some time and would spill over to the first two years of the 12th Plan as well.

It is submitted that vacancies in teaching positions is a matter of serious concern as rightly pointed out by the Hon'ble Committee and this situation is prevailing in all institutions of higher learning because in the recent years teaching as a career had become comparatively less attractive vis a vis other employment opportunities for the youth. This

prevailing situation of vacancies was the major reason for the Government to enhance the age of superannuation in teaching posts from 62 years to 65 years in centrally funded higher educational institutions. Based on the recommendations of a Pay Review Committee constituted by UGC, the Ministry has announced a package comprising revised pay scales and emoluments as well as certain quality oriented prescriptions for ensuring that bright young candidates are attracted and also retained in teaching profession. It is also proposed to start a new Scheme of Professor of Eminence for rewarding and encouraging top level faculty.

The other measures taken by the Government/UGC to attract bright young people to adopt teaching in higher education as a career vis-a-vis the opportunities available to them in new and emerging sectors of our economy, are summarized below:

- **Enhancing rates of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships by about 50%;**
- **Strengthening science based education and research in Universities;**
- **Disbursement of grant for presentation of research papers in international fora/ conferences;**
- **Enhancing the quantum of research grant to Universities aimed at encouraging research;**
- **Permitting the Universities to engage adjunct/guest faculty to meet the shortfall;**
- **Allowing contractual appointments for Faculty including for the persons of Indian Origin.**
- **Introducing Ramanujan Fellowship to attract distinguished Indian faculty serving in foreign Universities;**
- **Introducing Bose Fellowship aimed at strengthening research background of the distinguished faculty serving in India;**
- **Selecting Professors of Eminence for appointment in a higher grade with a view to encouraging and rewarding the top faculty;**
- **Allowing consultancy charges to be shared by the faculty;**
- **Revamping Academic Staff Colleges;**
- Organising summer schools/winter schools to upgrade the domain knowledge of teachers.
- Launching of National Mission on Education through ICT to provide broad band connectivity to all the institutions of Higher Learning numbering about 20,000 and providing them free e-content including the video and web based e-learning material prepared by the IITs and IISc, Bangalore under National Programme for Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL).

Recommendations/observations

2.15 The Department has expressed 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.

Action Taken

It is submitted that the Government has considered the recommendation made by Hon'ble Committee in its 202nd Action Taken Report. The Government after due consideration has taken this policy decision as one of the long term measures for making the teaching career attractive to the youth. The Ministry also submits that enhancement of age of superannuation of teachers would not affect the career opportunities for the youth in view of proposed continuous expansion of the higher education system as well as creation of new institutions in the Central, State and private sector.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee understands that pursuant to enactment of Central Universities Act, the process of establishing 12 new universities is underway. The Committee has every doubt about the availability of faculty for these new Universities in view of shortage of faculty in the existing Universities. The Committee would like to be apprised of the preparatory exercises undertaken for arranging the faculties in the proposed new Universities. The Committee is not at all convinced by the argument of the Department that raising the retirement age from 62 to 65 years is a long term policy decision for making the teaching career attractive to the youth. On the contrary, it is more a move to extend the tenure of existing faculties members who are at the brink of their retirement. These teachers perhaps would not be in a position to introduce innovative ways of teaching tuned to the changing times. It would be more practical not only to motivate youth to take up teaching as a profession but also make the profession more attractive for them.

The Committee, accordingly, recommends the Department to review its decision for raising retirement age and provide better level playing field for the youth so that they accept teaching as an attractive career opportunity.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The UGC has been asked to verify the existing vacancies vis a vis the number of UGC and NET qualified and Doctorate qualified candidates in terms of the discipline where vacancies exist, as well as whether these persons are available and willing for teaching in these disciplines or not. As desired by the Committee, the UGC has been asked for a serious review of the situation. Based on the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the Ministry under the Chairmanship of Prof. Bhal Chandra Mungekar, Member, Planning Commission to review the National Eligibility Test (NET) for its utility, effectiveness and continuation, directions have been issued by the Central Government to the UGC on 12-11-2008 under Section 20(1) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, that the UGC shall, for serving the national purpose of maintaining standards of higher education, frame regulations, processing, among other things, that qualifying in NET/ SLET shall generally be compulsory for all persons appointed to teaching position of Lecturer/ Assistant Professor in higher education. Relaxation can be given only to them who acquire Ph.D degree from a University complying with UGC regulations in regard to the process of registration, course work and evaluation process.

Comments of the Committee

Shortage of faculty in higher education is a matter of grave concern. No doubt, the policy decision in making NET compulsory for lecturership is a welcome step from quality education point of view but the same would not address the problem of faculty shortage. The Committee is of the opinion that a mechanism should be devised to ensure that interested and unemployed NET qualified and Ph. Ds holders are encouraged to take up faculty position in the institutions of higher education.

Vacancies in State Universities

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

It is submitted that as desired by the Committee, continuous efforts are being made at the highest levels in the Ministry to follow up with States for filling up the vacancies in State universities. More recently, the matter was taken up at the Conference of State Ministers of Higher & Technical Education on the 23rd – 24th July, 2008 and various States have assured the Ministry that filling up of vacancies in teaching positions would receive highest priority. The HRM has also taken up this matter in the Conference of Governors (Chancellors of State Universities) on the 16th – 17th September, 2008, presided over by the President of India. Based on the information received from the

various State Governments, the vacancy position in State Universities and Colleges (as on 29-01-09) is at **ANNEXURE-I**.

The nature of Schemes of the UGC for the 11th Plan envisages incentivising those State universities which subscribe to the agenda for reform of higher education, including improvement in quality, inter-alia, through filling up of vacancies.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee observes that the latest vacancy position in State Universities and colleges is dismal in majority of the States and UTs like Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat, Chhatisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerela, Rajasthan, Tripura, Goa, Haryana and Puduchery. It seems that the Conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education (held on 23rd - 24th July, 2008) and Conference of Governors (held on 16th-17th September, 2008) could hardly help in improving the vacancy position. The Committee is of the view that assiduous efforts need to be made both at the Centre and State level to fill up these vacant positions. The Committee appreciates the idea of linking incentives to filling up of vacancies. However, the Committee would like the State Universities to be made more accountable for the funds they get from the UGC and the Ministry should consider going one more step ahead by linking disbursement of funds with position of vacancies.

Fake Universities

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 2.24 – 2.26

The Government has also been deeply concerned with the existence of fake universities in different parts of the country. Besides pursuing with the University Grants Commission, which has been entrusted with the responsibility of maintenance of standards in higher education, this Ministry is striving to ensure that menace of the fake universities/ educational institutions in the country is totally curbed. Recently, the Minister of Human Resource Development has written to the Chief Ministers of the States/UTs requesting them to issue instructions to the law and order machinery at the State and District level to take immediate necessary action under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code against such institutions as are functioning in contravention of the Section 22 and 23 of the UGC Act, 1956. It has also been suggested to States that many

of the fake institutions are registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act and hence suitable instructions be issued to Registrars of Societies that they should consult the UGC whenever any application was made to them for registration of societies under the title University, Vishwavidyalaya and Viswavidyapith or any other regional synonym with the objective of conferring degrees. Following the request, certain State Governments have responded positively with an assurance to pursue the matter vigorously and to launch a campaign against such institutions. The Andhra Pradesh Police have recently raided a fake university at Hyderabad leading to the arrest of a person and seizure of a large number of fake certificates, rubber stamps etc.

The Minister of Human Resource Development has also on 17th June, 2008 made a public appeal in the print media cautioning parents/ guardians and students that while seeking admission in higher educational institutions, they should satisfy themselves that such institutions are recognized under the relevant laws and are of quality and repute. Even in case of recognized institutions and universities, parents and students have been advised to satisfy that the courses for which admissions are being offered/advertised are duly recognized and further that the campuses to which admissions are being offered are also recognized campuses of such institutions and universities. In case of any doubt, they have been advised to obtain information directly from the statutory bodies such as UGC, AICTE etc. These statutory authorities have also been directed to launch effective campaign against institutions which are unrecognized and unauthorized and to take appropriate penal action under law. An appeal has also been made to the media to refuse misleading advertisements even if it meant loss of advertising revenue.

UGC has written (on 25th June, 2008) to the Chief Secretaries of the States, where the fake universities identified by it are reportedly in existence. It has also been requested to get the complaint/FIR registered against the persons running such fake universities and after investigating the matter, initiate prosecution for the offences committed by them under the IPC.

AICTE has initiated the following steps to curb unapproved technical institutions in the Country:

- (i) Based on the information collected through advertisements, complaints received from the public etc., a list of such institutions are listed on the AICTE website for the information of students and the general public.
- (ii) Public notices have also been issued in all leading newspapers cautioning the students not to take admission in such unapproved institutions.
- (iii) Show cause notices have been issued to unapproved technical institutions advising them to seek AICTE approval or to close down such courses with immediate effect.

The details of unapproved institutions, who did not obtain AICTE approval/did not close down were communicated to the concerned State Govt./UT for taking necessary

action by invoking criminal laws applicable in such cases. As per information given by AICTE, no feedback has yet been received from the States.

Committee of the Committee (2.24-2.26)

The Committee is deeply disturbed by the grave situation persisting due to the fake universities continuing to function in the country without any check worth mentioning. The Committee would like to have a status note reflecting improvement, if any, noticed in this critical area. The Committee is once again constrained to point out that the so called steps taken by AICTE would not lead to any significant respite for our student community. The Committee reiterates that the Department in consultation with AICTE, UGC and State authorities should chalk out a workable Action Plan, removing all the legal infirmities. The element of helplessness on the part of the Centre since a long period is no longer acceptable to the Committee.

III. Women and Higher Education

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on paras 3.1 – 3.2

The recommendations of the Hon'ble Committee have been noted and also conveyed to the UGC. The UGC has an Action Plan for reducing gender imbalances through various schemes such as construction of women's hostel, setting up of Women's Studies Centres, flexibility to do research on a part time basis, women's fellowships, training for women administrators, single girl child scholarship scheme for PG studies, and participation of women in various Committees.

Comments of the Committee (3.1 & 3.2)

The Committee would like to be apprised about the specific steps taken by both UGC and the Department for sensitizing the Universities in this vital area. The Committee would also appreciate if adequate funds are made available for such schemes.

V. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES, SHIMLA

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla has adopted the revised monitoring system of its fellowship programme.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee endorses the revised monitoring system adopted in respect of the fellowship programme of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. It would, however, like to be apprised of this new system of monitoring and the impact of thereof since its implementation.

VI. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The B.E. (2007-08) was Rs 108.00 crore and the R.E. was also kept at the same level. The availability of huge unspent balance (i.e.Rs 29.44 crore) with IGNOU, was the reason for lower release to the University till December, 2007.

The copy of Minutes of Review Meeting held on 7.4.2008 is at **Annexure-II**.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee has taken note of the minutes of Review Meeting held on 7.04.08 which show that utilization of funds is not being taken seriously by the University. Unfortunately, no reason for huge unspent balance in NER has been furnished. The Committee would like the Ministry to devise a time bound action plan for timely and judicious utilization of funds.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The University has already implemented, a decision of offering programmes by the Regional Centres, besides the Schools.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is of the view that delegation of responsibility and giving autonomy to the Regional Centres is a good initiative provided proper monitoring of the Centres is undertaken by IGNOU periodically. It emphasizes on maintaining high quality of education imparted through the Regional Centres. The Committee would like to be apprised of the preparatory exercises undertaken in this regard.

VII. DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL (DEC)

Recommendations/observations

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.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on Paras 7.1 – 7.2

The proposal for introducing a Bill for establishment of a separate statutory body Distance Education Council is in advanced stage of consideration.

Comments of the Committee (7.1 & 7.2)

While welcoming the progress made in the matter of having a separate statutory body for Distance Education, the Committee would like to emphasize that every effort should be made to expedite this long-awaited proposal.

VIII. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

AICTE Act {Section 10 (k)} provides for grant of approval for establishment of new technical institutions and introduction of new courses/programmes in consultation with the agencies concerned. The AICTE Act also provides for prevention of commercialization of technical education under Section 10 (n) and also under Section 10 (g) for evolving a suitable performance appraisal system for technical institutions imparting technical education, incorporating norms and mechanisms for enforcing accountability. In accordance with these provisions, the Council has notified regulations incorporating specific provisions prohibiting any technical institution to conduct courses/programmes in the field of technical education without obtaining mandatory approval from AICTE.

However, the AICTE Act does not have any specific provision or penalty clause against the institutions conducting technical education programmes without AICTE approval. The MHRD has set up a Committee under Prof. Yash Pal to review the functioning of the AICTE. One of the terms of reference of this Committee is a review of the AICTE Act.

Pending amendment of the AICTE Act, the Council has initiated the following steps to curb unapproved technical institutions in the Country:

- Based on the information collected through advertisements, complaints received from the public etc. a list of such institutions is placed on the AICTE website for the information of students and the general public.
- Public notices have also been issued in all leading newspapers cautioning the students not to take admission in such unapproved institutions.
- Show-cause notices have been issued to unapproved technical institutions advising them to seek AICTE approval or to close down such courses with immediate effect.
- The details of unapproved institutions, that did not obtain AICTE approval/did not close down are communicated to the concerned State Govt./UT for taking necessary action by invoking criminal laws applicable in such cases.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is surprised to note the Council's plea that there is no provision in the AICTE Act for taking action against these erring institutions. In fact, para 2.11.1(b) of Regulations, 2006 for AICTE Grant of approval for starting new technical institutions, introduction of courses or programmes and increase/variation intake capacity of seats for the courses or programmes and Extension of approval for the existing technical institutions gives adequate powers to the Council to take the required action. It is the execution part of the Regulation which is not coming forth. The inability of the Council to take stringent action against the unapproved institutions and those violating norms and standards under this Regulation is quite disturbing. The accountability of the Council does not end simply by issuing show cause notices to these institutions and requesting the State Governments to take action against them. In the past also, the Committee had expressed its serious concerns over the large number of institutions continuing to flout the norms and operating without any check. The Committee, therefore, urges the Council to assume its mandated responsibility and take immediate corrective steps against the erring institutions.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

The All India Council for Technical Education has taken several initiatives for meaningful interaction between industry and academia for the benefit of the technical education system.

As a strategic initiative, the Council has set up a Committee to review the existing Industry-Institute Partnership Schemes, to suggest new initiatives / schemes promoting partnership between the technical education system and the industry, and to identify appropriate thrust areas. The requirements of trade and industry will be suitably covered under the new thrust areas.

A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Dayaratnam, Chairman, All India Board of Undergraduate Studies in Engineering & Technology to look into the issue concerning regional imbalances and based on the recommendations of the Committee a Pilot Survey is being undertaken by the Council to ascertain the status of regional imbalance. Based on the findings of the Pilot Survey, the Committee has to submit its final report. The Report of the Committee is yet to be received.

In order to promote technical education for women, handicapped and the weaker sections of the society, the AICTE has introduced a Tuition Waiver Scheme for Women, Economically Backward and Physically Handicapped students in Technical Institutions. The proposed scheme is applicable to the students of all AICTE approved technical institutions in all disciplines. The institutions shall provide tuition fee waiver upto 10 percent of its sanctioned intake of students.

The Council has undertaken the following initiatives:

- The applications received for setting up of technical institutions exclusively for women, are being processed through single window mechanism for speedy disposal and concessions are being given in the land requirements and 20% concession is being given in FDR amount and processing fees.
- Minority Institutions are given concession upto 20% in FDR and processing fees.

- 20% relaxation is allowed in FDR amount and processing fee for establishment of new technical institutions in North-Eastern States. The Council has also allowed land to be in three adjacent pieces in hilly areas including North-Eastern states.
- A Second shift is being permitted in Polytechnic/ Engineering Institutions subject to certain conditions.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is disturbed to note that inspite of several initiatives taken by the Council, the linkages between industry and technical institutions continue to remain weak as the anticipated response and the desired level of participation of the industry is simply missing. Mere tie up with industry associations such as CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, NASSCOM cannot be considered justified. Need of the hour is to initiate a meaningful dialogue with the representatives of industry so as to have the real understanding of their requirements and remove the existing bottlenecks. To actually play the role of co-ordinator and facilitator between the industry and institutions, the Council should holistically examine its existing rules, regulations and procedures to further this objective. This may be undertaken after broad-based consultations with Industry.

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken on Paras 9.5 – 9.6

The Procedure of holding the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for IITs is as under:

IIT-JEE is a joint entrance exam for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other premier institutions. This examination is conducted for admission to B.Tech., Integrated M.Tech., Cooperative Integrated M.Tech., B.Pharm. (4 years) and B.Arch.

The Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs),

Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram also admit students from the JEE merit list for their undergraduate programmes/Integrated M.Sc.

However, women candidates are not given admission to B.Tech. in Mining or Mining Machinery Engineering under Section 46 (1) of the Mines Act, 1952.

From the year 2006, a reform has been introduced in the existing scheme of the examination. IIT-JEE now is conducted in a single phase. It is mandatory for candidates desiring to join B.Arch. and B. Design to qualify in a two-hour aptitude test at the counseling institutes. Separate merit lists of candidates belonging to the General and SC/ST categories are prepared. No waiting or extended list is prepared. There are independent cut-offs for each subject and also for the aggregate. The choice of examination centres and the IIT zone in no way influences allotment of the Institute and the course to be pursued.

Eligibility-A candidate has to satisfy all the eligibility conditions given below:

- A candidate can attempt JEE only twice, in consecutive years.
- Candidates appearing for JEE-2008 should have either passed in 2007 or should be appearing in 2008 in the qualifying examination listed below (A) and should satisfy the eligibility criteria listed below (B).
- Candidates should meet the age requirements given below (C).
- Candidates should not have accepted admission by paying full fees at any of the IITs, IT-BHU, Varanasi and ISMU, Dhanbad, through earlier JEE.

(A) Qualifying examinations:

- The final examination of the 10+2 system, conducted by any recognized Central/State Board, such as Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi; Council for Indian School Certificate Examination, New Delhi; etc.
- Intermediate or two-year Pre-University Examination conducted by a recognized Board/University.
- Final Examination of the two-year course of the Joint Services Wing of the National Defence Academy.
- General Certificate Education (GCE) Examination (London/Cambridge/Sri Lanka) at the Advanced (A) level.
- High School Certificate Examination of the Cambridge University.
- Any Public School/Board/University Examination in India or in any foreign country recognized by the Association of Indian Universities as equivalent to the 10+2 system.
- H.S.C. Vocational Examination.
- Senior Secondary School Examination conducted by the National Open School with a minimum of five subjects.

- 3 or 4 – year Diploma recognized by AICTE or a State Board of Technical Education.

In case the relevant qualifying examination is not a public examination, the candidate must have passed at least one public (Board of Pre-University) examination at an earlier level.

(B) Other Eligibility conditions

Candidates belonging to the GE and DS categories must secure 60% or more marks in aggregate in their Qualifying Examination. Candidates belonging to the SC, ST, and PD categories must secure 55% or more marks in aggregate in the Qualifying Examination. The percentage of marks awarded by the Board will be treated as final. If the Board does not award the percentage of marks, it will be calculated based on the marks obtained in all subjects listed in the marks sheet. If any Board awards only grades without providing an equivalent percentage of marks on the grade sheet, the candidate should obtain a certificate from the Board specifying the equivalent marks, and submit it at the time of counseling. In case such a certificate is not provided by the candidate, then the decision of the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) regarding his/her eligibility shall be final.

(C) Relaxation in Age

There is relaxation of 5 years in age limit for SC/ST/PD candidates as given below:

For General Candidates - 25 years or below on 1st October of the year of JEE

For SC/ST/PD categories - 30 years or below on 1st October of the year of JEE

Date of birth as recorded in the High School/ first Board/ Pre-University Certificate will be taken as authentic. If the high school certificate does not mention the date of birth, a suitable document indicating the date of birth along with the application is to be provided. Candidates must produce this certificate in original as a proof of their age at the time of counseling, failing which they will be disqualified.

Scheme of the Examination

There will be two question papers, each of three hours duration. Both the question papers would consist of three separate sections on Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. Questions of these papers will be of objective type, which are to be answered on a specially designed machine-gradable sheet (ORS – Optical Response Sheets) using HB pencils only. Incorrect answers are awarded negative marks.

Candidates can opt for Question Papers either in English or in Hindi. This option should be exercised while filling the application form, and it cannot be changed at any later stage.

Visually impaired candidates will be provided with question papers with 20% enlarged font. However, to avail this facility, candidates should make a request along with the application form.

Use of calculators and log tables is **NOT permitted**.

Reservation.

- 15% of the seats are reserved for SC candidates and 7.5% for ST candidates.
- Two seats are available in each Institute for children of defence / paramilitary personnel killed or permanently disabled in action during war or peace-time operations.
- For PD (including leprosy-cured) candidates, who are otherwise fit to pursue the course, and qualify JEE with relaxed norms relevant to this category, 3% seats are reserved as specified by the Government of India. For any category of disability (viz., locomotor, visual, speech, and/or hearing), benefit would be given to those candidates who have at least 40% permanent physical impairment in relaxation to a body part / system / extremity / extremities / whole body, etc.
- Reservation of seats for candidates belonging to OBC Category (NON-CREAMY LAYER) has been implemented in the admissions to all the IITs, IIT-BHU and ISMU, Dhanbad through JEE 2008 for the academic session 2008-09 as per the instructions of Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India.

Main points of the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court delivered on 13.06.2008 in the matter of WP. No.11434 of 2007 of Shri Sanchit Bansal and Shri Rajeev Kumar, are as under:-

After considering the submissions made by the learned Advocates for the respective parties and after perusing the writ petition and the affidavits used by the parties, it appears that the procedure for cut-off determination in JEE, 2006 cannot be questioned by the writ petitioners. This is because both the writ petitioners, that is to say, the candidate and his father, had given a signed declaration, by virtue of which they are bound by the decision of Joint Admission Board. From a copy of the application form, annexed to the affidavit-in-opposition, it appears that the following declaration was provided:-

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

“I hereby declare that all the particulars stated in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have read the Information Brochure and I shall abide by the terms and conditions therein. In the event of suppression or distortion of any fact like category, educational qualifications, nationality etc. made in my application form, I understand that I will be denied the opportunity to appear in the JEE and if already admitted, my admission/degree acquired is liable for cancellation. I also understand that the decision of the Joint Admission Board regarding my admission to IITs/IIT-BHU/ISM, Dhanbad is final and I shall abide by the decision. Further, if

admitted, I promise to abide by the rules and norms of discipline of the Institute I join”

On the basis of this unequivocal declaration, it is not open to the writ petitioners to question the decision of the Joint Admission Board regarding the writ petitioner no.1’s admission to IIT/IT-BHU/ISM, Dhanbad. Since such decision is final and binding upon them, the writ petitioners have no option but to abide by the decision of the Joint Admission Board, by virtue of signing the said declaration. As the application form is filled up and signed by the candidate and countersigned by his/her parent/guardian out of their own volition and choice, there is no scope of contesting the decision of the Joint Admission Board for admission to the various institutes stated in the declaration, after putting their signatures on the said declaration.

In the facts of the instant case, the writ petitioners have not been able to demonstrate, by producing even a scrap of paper that they had lodged their protest with regard to the declaration given by them before the Joint Admission Board. Apart from that, the respondents have justified in their affidavit-in-opposition as to how they arrived at the cut-off marks for Chemistry subject for JEE 2006.

“In the facts and circumstances of the case, the instant writ petition is liable to be dismissed and the same is hereby dismissed with, however, no order as to costs”.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee takes note of the detailed reply submitted by the Ministry with regard to the procedure for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for IITs and the related High Court Judgment. The Committee would like to point out that its apprehension about there being non-fixed procedure or technique for deciding cut-off marks in JEE for IITs remains unanswered. The Committee would appreciate if information on this most vital component of JEE for IITs is also shared with it so as to have the proper assessment about the entire issue. The Committee strongly feels that that unequivocal declaration given by a candidate in his admission form and duly signed by his parent does not mean that the entire examination procedure is foolproof.

XI. POLYTECHNICS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

An Appraisal Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ranjit Singh, Chairman, All India Board of Vocational Education, AICTE to evaluate the scheme and work out modalities for its continuation in the XI Plan. The report of the Committee is being examined by the Government.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like the Ministry to share with it the recommendations of Appraisal Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ranjit Singh alongwith the action taken by the Government in respect thereof. It hopes that the Government would implement the revised scheme soon so that more and more physically disabled persons benefit therefrom.

XIII. INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIM)

Recommendations/observations

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.

Action Taken

IIM Review Committee to review the functioning of IIMs under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Udyog Limited has been set up vide Resolution dated 17.10.2007 to submit its report within six months. Subsequently, vide Ministry's Resolutions dated 23.05.2008 and 25.07.2008 the term of the Committee was further extended to submit its report to the Government by 17.10.2007. The Committee has finally submitted its report to the Ministry on 17.10.2008. Report has been put on the website of the Ministry for inviting comments of IIMs and other stakeholders. On receipt of the same, they will be analysed in the Ministry and a decision would be taken on the Report/ Recommendations of the Bhargava Committee.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee observes that the Ministry has not given any reason as to why IIMs raised their fees earlier without waiting for the Bhargava Committee Report. It is again shocking that while the report of the IIM Review Committee is still under the scrutiny of the Ministry, there were media reports about hike in the fees of the IIMs by 1 lakh rupees. The Committee disapproves the pattern of the regular increase in fees of IIMs as this would discourage students from economically backward classes to study in these institutions of higher learning. The Committee would like the Government to substantiate the reasons for recent hike in fees of IIMs.

XVI. DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGES

Recommendations/observations

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:-

(Rs. in crores)

Programme/Scheme	B.E	R.E	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

Action Taken

During the year 2007-08 Planning Commission did not allocate any funds for the scheme of Appointment of Language Teachers and the scheme of Assistance to Agencies for Education in Human Values. Later on it was decided by the Planning Commission to restore these schemes and the allocations were made available for these schemes in October 2007 by re-appropriation from other schemes- at the stage of first supplementary. The actual expenditure incurred on these schemes during 2007-08 is as under:-

(Rs. In crores)

Programme/Scheme	B.E	R.E	Actual Expenditure as on 31.3.2008	Remarks
Directorate of Hindi	9.00	9.00	8.89	
Grants to Hindi Shikhan Mandal, Agra	17.00	6.00	6.00	As no allocation was made by the Planning Commission for the Scheme of Appointment of Language Teachers and it was decided that the scheme will be looked after by KHS Agra so its allocation was enhanced. Later on the scheme was restored and the Rs. 12.50 crore was re-appropriated from KHS to the Sheme of Appointment of Language Teachers. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan Agra fully spent their allocated amount of Rs. 6 crore meant exclusively for their schemes.
Appointment of Language Teachers	0.00	15.00	7.99	No allocation was made by the Planning Commission for the scheme in the XI Five Year Plan. Decision to restore the scheme was received in October 2007. It was also decided to revise the scheme

				with minor modifications. As a result sufficient proposals were not received from the State Govts.
Assistance to Agencies for Education in Human Values	0.00	3.00	2.89	Most of the allocation was utilized.
Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore	24.10	20.25	15.09	New schemes of National Translation Mission for Rs. 0.90 crore, Linguistic Survey of India for Rs. 5.00 crore, Development of Pali and Prakrit for Rs. 1.00 crore, could not be started during the year, as they were not approved during 2007-08.
National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language	1.00	1.70	0.87	The Council was shifted from Vadodra to Delhi and the post of Director was vacant. It took time to settle the Council in Delhi and due to absence of Director some of the programmes of the council could not be held so the funds to the tune of Rs.0.83 crore remained utilized.
Grants to Rashtriya Ved Vidya Sansthan	3.00	5.20	5.20	Fully utilized

Comments of the Committee

The Committee feels that perhaps State Governments are not aware of the revised scheme and that is why sufficient proposals are not coming forth. The revised scheme be given adequate popularity through print and electronic media in addition to the course of routine communication so that more and more proposals are received for the implementation of the scheme. All out efforts should be made for utilization of funds in a judicious manner.

The Committee takes note of the fact that new schemes of National Translation Mission, Linguistic Survey of India, Development of Pali and Prakrit did not get approval during 2007-08 leading to underutilization of funds allocated for Central Institute of Indian languages, Mysore. The Committee would like to be apprised of the approval as well as of the implementation status of these schemes.

The Committee desires that the post of Director, National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language is filled up as early as possible so that programmes of the Council do not suffer because of this reason.

CHAPTER-IV

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

-Nil-

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS AT A GLANCE

II. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

The Committee points out that the Ministry has failed to give the details of funds allocation and pending UCs with the Universities, even after extension of time sought for the purpose. This shows lack of seriousness on the part of the Ministry towards the accountability of Government funds and is an indication of poor fiscal management. It would like the Ministry to initiate an enquiry into the matter and share the report with the Committee at the earliest. The Committee appreciates the formulation of an 'e-governance' project by UGC and hopes that system is put into practice by all the Regional Offices and Universities so as to facilitate quick compilation/update of records. (Para 2.4)

The Committee is of the opinion that a long list of Committees constituted is indicative of the plethora of issues which remained unresolved or needed to be reviewed in the field of higher education. It hopes that these respective Committees would expedite their Reports and action thereupon by the Department should be taken with utmost priority as those issues are of vital importance for improving the quality of higher education in the country. (Para 2.7)

Vacancies in Central Universities

The Committee has time and again been drawing the attention of Government towards large number of vacancies particularly in teaching positions of the Central Universities; quality of education has been the major causality as a result thereof. More than 200 vacancies alone in Allahabad University is quite alarming. The Committee has not been apprised about the latest position of filling up of vacancies in Assam University, University of Hyderabad, North-Eastern Hill University, Mahatma Gandhi Antrrashtriya Vishvavidyalaya, Tripura University, Pudicherry University and Nagaland University. The Committee would like to know the details of sanctioned posts *vis-a-vis* the vacant posts in all Central Universities, university-wise for a better appraisal of the faculty position. (Para 2.13)

The Committee understands that pursuant to enactment of Central Universities Act, the process of establishing 12 new universities is underway. The Committee has every doubt about the availability of faculty for these new Universities in view of shortage of faculty in the existing Universities. The Committee would like to be apprised of the preparatory exercises undertaken for arranging the faculties in the proposed new Universities. The Committee is not at all convinced by the argument of the Department that raising the retirement age

from 62 to 65 years is a long term policy decision for making the teaching career attractive to the youth. On the contrary, it is more a move to extend the tenure of existing faculties members who are at the brink of their retirement. These teachers perhaps would not be in a position to introduce innovative ways of teaching tuned to the changing times. It would be more practical not only to motivate youth to take up teaching as a profession but also make the profession more attractive for them.

The Committee, accordingly, recommends the Department to review its decision for raising retirement age and provide better level playing field for the youth so that they accept teaching as an attractive career opportunity.

(Para 2.14 & 2.15)

Shortage of faculty in higher education is a matter of grave concern. No doubt, the policy decision in making NET compulsory for lecturership is a welcome step from quality education point of view but the same would not address the problem of faculty shortage. The Committee is of the opinion that a mechanism should be devised to ensure that interested and unemployed NET qualified and Ph. Ds holders are encouraged to take up faculty position in the institutions of higher education.

(Para 2.16)

Vacancies in State Universities

The Committee observes that the latest vacancy position in State Universities and colleges is dismal in majority of the States and UTs like Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat, Chhatisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerela, Rajasthan, Tripura, Goa, Haryana and Puduchery. It seems that the Conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education (held on 23rd - 24th July, 2008) and Conference of Governors (held on 16th-17th September, 2008) could hardly help in improving the vacancy position. The Committee is of the view that assiduous efforts need to be made both at the Centre and State level to fill up these vacant positions. The Committee appreciates the idea of linking incentives to filling up of vacancies. However, the Committee would like the State Universities to be made more accountable for the funds they get from the UGC and the Ministry should consider going one more step ahead by linking disbursement of funds with position of vacancies.

(Para 2.20)

Fake Universities

The Committee is deeply disturbed by the grave situation persisting due to the fake universities continuing to function in the country without any check worth mentioning. The Committee would like to have a status note reflecting improvement, if any, noticed in this critical area. The Committee is once again constrained to point out that the so called steps taken by AICTE would not lead to any significant respite for our student community. The Committee reiterates that the Department in consultation with AICTE, UGC and State authorities should chalk out a workable Action Plan, removing all the legal infirmities. The element of

helplessness on the part of the Centre since a long period is no longer acceptable to the Committee. (Paras 2.24 & 2.26)

III. Women and Higher Education

The Committee would like to be apprised about the specific steps taken by both UGC and the Department for sensitizing the Universities in this vital area. The Committee would also appreciate if adequate funds are made available for such schemes. (Paras 3.1 & 3.2)

V. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES, SHIMLA

The Committee endorses the revised monitoring system adopted in respect of the fellowship programme of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. It would, however, like to be apprised of this new system of monitoring and the impact of thereof since its implementation. (Para 5.1)

VI. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

The Committee is of the view that delegation of responsibility and giving autonomy to the Regional Centres is a good initiative provided proper monitoring of the Centres is undertaken by IGNOU periodically. It emphasizes on maintaining high quality of education imparted through the Regional Centres. The Committee would like to be apprised of the preparatory exercises undertaken in this regard. (Para 6.9)

VII. DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL (DEC)

While welcoming the progress made in the matter of having a separate statutory body for Distance Education, the Committee would like to emphasize that every effort should be made to expedite this long-awaited proposal. (Paras 7.1 & 7.2)

VIII. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)

The Committee is surprised to note the Council's plea that there is no provision in the AICTE Act for taking action against these erring institutions. In fact, para 2.11.1(b) of Regulations, 2006 for AICTE Grant of approval for starting new technical institutions, introduction of courses or programmes and increase/variation intake capacity of seats for the courses or programmes and Extension of approval for the existing technical institutions gives adequate powers to the Council to take the required action. It is the execution part of the Regulation which is not coming forth. The inability of the Council to take stringent action against the unapproved institutions and those violating norms and standards under this Regulation is quite disturbing. The accountability of the Council does not end simply by issuing show cause notices to these institutions and requesting the State

Governments to take action against them. In the past also, the Committee had expressed its serious concerns over the large number of institutions continuing to flout the norms and operating without any check. The Committee, therefore, urges the Council to assume its mandated responsibility and take immediate corrective steps against the erring institutions. (Para 8.4)

The Committee is disturbed to note that inspite of several initiatives taken by the Council, the linkages between industry and technical institutions continue to remain weak as the anticipated response and the desired level of participation of the industry is simply missing. Mere tie up with industry associations such as CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, NASSCOM cannot be considered justified. Need of the hour is to initiate a meaningful dialogue with the representatives of industry so as to have the real understanding of their requirements and remove the existing bottlenecks. To actually play the role of co-ordinator and facilitator between the industry and institutions, the Council should holistically examine its existing rules, regulations and procedures to further this objective. This may be undertaken after broad-based consultations with Industry. (Para 8.5)

The Committee takes note of the detailed reply submitted by the Ministry with regard to the procedure for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for IITs and the related High Court Judgment. The Committee would like to point out that its apprehension about there being non-fixed procedure or technique for deciding cut-off marks in JEE for IITs remains unanswered. The Committee would appreciate if information on this most vital component of JEE for IITs is also shared with it so as to have the proper assessment about the entire issue. The Committee strongly feels that that unequivocal declaration given by a candidate in his admission form and duly signed by his parent does not mean that the entire examination procedure is foolproof. (Para 9.6)

XI. POLYTECHNICS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Committee would like the Ministry to share with it the recommendations of Appraisal Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ranjit Singh alongwith the action taken by the Government in respect thereof. It hopes that the Government would implement the revised scheme soon so that more and more physically disabled persons benefit therefrom. (Para 11.2)

XIII. INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIM)

The Committee observes that the Ministry has not given any reason as to why IIMs raised their fees earlier without waiting for the Bharagava Committee Report. It is again shocking that while the report of the IIM Review Committee is still under the scrutiny of the Ministry, there were media reports about hike in the fees of the IIMs by 1 lakh rupees. The Committee disapproves the pattern of the regular increase in fees of IIMs as this would discourage students from economically backward classes to study in these institutions of higher learning. The Committee

would like the Government to substantiate the reasons for recent hike in fees of IIMs. (Para 13.2)

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The Committee feels that perhaps State Governments are not aware of the revised scheme and that is why sufficient proposals are not coming forth. The revised scheme be given adequate popularity through print and electronic media in addition to the course of routine communication so that more and more proposals are received for the implementation of the scheme. All out efforts should be made for utilization of funds in a judicious manner.

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The Committee desires that the post of Director, National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language is filled up as early as possible so that programmes of the Council do not suffer because of this reason. (Para 16.2)

MINUTES

V
FIFTH MEETING

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 11.00 A.M. on Friday, the 30th October, 2009 in Room No. 63, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT
RAJYA SABHA

1. Shri Oscar Fernandes — *Chairman*
2. Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan
3. Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai
4. Shri Penumalli Madhu
5. Shri M. Rama Jois
6. Dr. Janardhan Waghmare

LOK SABHA

7. Shri P.K. Biju
8. Shrimati J. Helen Davidson
9. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar
10. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
11. Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav
12. Shri P. Kumar
13. Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar
14. Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad
15. Dr. Vinay Kumar Pandey
16. Shri Tapas Paul
17. Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh
18. Shri Ashok Tanwar
19. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi

SECRETARIAT

Smt. Vandana Garg, Additional Secretary
Shri M.K. Khan, Director
Shri Arun Sharma, Joint Director
Shri Sanjay Singh, Assistant Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman apprised the Members of the agenda before the Committee. The Committee then took up the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009 for clause-by-clause consideration. The Committee took note of a statement prepared by the Secretariat indicating a comparative analysis of the provisions of the relevant Act of 2004, the amended Act of 2006 and the proposed provisions of the Bill alongwith the views of both the Department of Higher Education and the Commission on the proposed Bill. After some deliberations, the Committee decided to adopt the Report on the Bill in its next meeting.
3. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the draft 214th and 215th Action Taken Reports, on the action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in its 207th and 208th Reports on Demands for Grants 2008-09 pertaining to Department of Higher Education and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports respectively.
4. Verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.
5. The Committee then adjourned at 12.00 Noon to meet again at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, the 12th November, 2009.

NEW DELHI
30th OCTOBER, 2009

ARUN SHARMA
JOINT DIRECTOR