



**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA  
RAJYA SABHA**

**233**

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

**TWO HUNDRED-THIRTY THIRD REPORT**

**ON**

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED  
IN THE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY SECOND REPORT ON  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2010-2011 (DEMAND NO. 58)  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)**

**(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2011)  
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2011)**

**RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
MARCH, 2011/PHALGUNA, 1932 (SAKA)**



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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON HRD  
(2010-11)

**MEMBERS**

**RAJYA SABHA**

1. Shri Oscar Fernandes — *Chairman*
2. Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai
3. Dr. K. Keshava Rao
4. Shri Prakash Javadekar
5. Shri M. Rama Jois
6. Shri Pramod Kureel
7. Shri N.K. Singh
8. Shrimati Kanimozhi
9. Dr. Janardhan Waghmare
10. Shri N. Balaganga

**LOK SABHA**

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

(ii)

**SECRETARIAT**

Shrimati Vandana Garg, *Additional Secretary*

Shri N.S. Walia, *Director*

Shri Arun Sharma, *Joint Director*

Shri Sanjay Singh, *Assistant Director*

Shrimati Himanshi Arya, *Committee Officer*

Shrimati Harshita Shankar, *Committee Officer*



## PREFACE

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Two Hundred-Thirty Third Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Twenty Second Report on Demands for Grants (Demand No. 58) of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2010-11.

2. The Two Hundred-Twenty Second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. Replies of the Government to the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report, were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same at its meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

NEW DELHI;  
*January 17, 2011*  

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*Pausa 13, 1932 (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 Twenty Second 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 2010-11.

2. Action Taken Notes received from the Government in respect of the recommendations contained in the 222<sup>nd</sup> Report, have been categorized as follows:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government-paras  
3.6

**(Chapter-I) Total – 1**

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

2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6, 6.9, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 9, 10.1, 10.2, 11.1, 11.2, 12.1, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.9, 12.10, 14.1, 14.2, 15.1, 15.2, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 17.1, 17.2, 18.1, 18.2, 18.3, 18.4, 18.5, 18.6, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, and 19.4.

**(Chapter-II) Total – 63**

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

2.4, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.6, 6.5, 6.8, 8.9, 8.10, 11.3, 12.3, 12.8, 12.11, 12.12, 12.13, 13.1, 13.2 and 15.3.

**(Chapter-III) Total – 19**

- (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**

#### **III. UTILISATION OF FUNDS**

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

3.6 The Committee is not convinced by the Department's clarification that unspent balances in itself do not adversely affect the working of institutions as all such institutions have also corresponding liabilities/commitments which are taken into account while deciding further releases. The Committee would like to point out that the very fact that small institutions have unspent balances and corresponding liabilities also, indicates that not only financial norms are not being adhered to but they are also not functioning as per their mandate. The Committee would, therefore, appreciate if corrective measures are initiated by the Department at the earliest. Committee's apprehensions are confirmed by pendency of audit paras against ICSSR, New Delhi, Central Hindi Directorate and CIIL, Mysore.

##### **Action Taken**

The number of UCs pending as on 31.03.2010 has been reduced from 2115 to 1952. Further, the amount of unutilized fund available with autonomous bodies/other implementing agencies has been reduced from Rs.834.41 crore to Rs.688.16 crore as on 31.03.2010.

The Committee's observations regarding unspent balances have been noted by the department for compliance in future. The department has been taking appropriate measures so that financial releases are made as per the laid down norms and financial prudence is strictly observed.

## CHAPTER-II

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

#### II. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

##### Recommendations/Observations

2.1 The budgetary allocations of the Department of Higher Education during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been as under:-

<i>(Rs in crores)</i>			
Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2007-08	6483.00	2729.00	9212.00
2008-09	7600.00	3259.00	10855.00
2009-10	9600.00	5833.00	15433.00

In 2010-11, the Department has received a total outlay of Rs.16,994 crores including Rs. 11,000 crore plan and Rs. 5,994 crore non-plan allocation. The Committee notes that while there was 17.32 per cent increase in plan outlay in 2008-09 in comparison to 2007-08, the plan allocation increased by 26.32 per cent in 2009-10 in comparison to previous year. A hike of 14.58 per cent in allocation for 2010-11 is comparatively low.

##### Action Taken

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

##### Recommendations/Observations

2.2 The Sector-wise allocations during 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as under:-

<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>			
Sector	BE (2009-10)	RE (2009-10)	BE 2010-11
1. University and Higher Education	4419.00	3630.00	4976.90
2. Technical Education	3902.00	3687.00	4706.00
3. Distance Learning, Scholarships and ICT	1100.00	460.00	1120.00
4. Languages Development	145.00	142.00	157.00
5. Others (including Book Promotion, copyright and planning, etc.).	34.00	33.00	40.10
TOTAL	9600.00	7952.00	11000.00

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

2.3 It was brought to the notice of the Committee that the Department of Higher Education had submitted a proposal to the Planning Commission for a plan allocation of Rs.20,947 crores for the financial year 2010-11 but finally an allocation of Rs.11,000 crores has been approved. The Department of Higher Education had, therefore, to re-work all the schemes. No Plan-Scheme of the Department has, however, been dropped.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations****III. UTILISATION OF FUNDS****Recommendations/Observations**

3.2 The Department has clarified that out of the provision of Rs. 4375.94 crore for UGC in 2009-10, a sum of Rs. 827 crore was meant for establishment of new Central Universities and Rs. 1033 crore was earmarked for implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations in Central Educational Institutions. However, due to issues of site selection and the transfer of land for Central Universities by State Governments, construction activities could not be initiated, leading to allocation remaining unspent. Similarly, due to delay in recruitment of faculty, shortfall of Rs. 213 crore was envisaged under Oversight Committee at RE stage. Delayed approval of the Scheme of National Knowledge Network under the National Mission on Education was the other main factor leading to reduction in allocation.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

3.3 The Committee can presume that but for failure in achievement of physical projects, the plan allocations were accordingly reduced at RE stage after the pre-budget review. There has been shortfall in non-plan expenditure due to delay in finalisation of the pay scales, corresponding to the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations, for faculty of the centrally funded Technical Institutions and the consequent delay in pay fixation and payment of arrears of salary. A sum of Rs.250 crore provided for the scheme of "Improvement in Salary Scales of University & College Teachers" remained unutilized in the absence of required proposals/ details from the States. The Committee was informed that pace of expenditure was being reviewed in the Bureau Heads meeting twice a month and necessary steps were being taken to overcome the identified problems.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

### Recommendations/Observations

3.6 Availability of unspent balances and outstanding utilisation certificates are the two basic indicators of achievement level of both physical and financial targets of any scheme. The Committee has been monitoring the status of these two components. The Committee is happy to note that considerable progress has been made in both bringing down the number of pending UCs and the quantum of unspent balances. From 2914 UCs amounting to Rs. 7493.61 crore as on 1st April, 2009, 2115 UCs amounting to Rs. 834.41 crore are outstanding as on 31st December, 2009. Similarly Unspent Balances amounting to Rs. 353.91 crore as on 1st April, 2009 have been brought down to Rs. 35.44 crore by 30th September, 2009. The Committee would, however, like to point out that number of UCs (2115 as on 31st December, 2009) is still considerably high. The Committee also notes that unspent balances are available with autonomous bodies/other implementing agencies. As per the latest details furnished by the Department, unspent balances, both under plan and non-plan are available with 12 institutions, out of which maximum availability is with the following 5 institutions:

<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>		
Institutions	Plan	Non-Plan
ISM University, Dhanbad	1.24	–
NERIST, Itanagar	3.15	1.37
ICSSR, New Delhi	2.19	–
Central Hindi Directorate	2.98	5.13
CIIL, Mysore	20.53	3.81

**The Committee is not convinced by the Department's clarification that unspent balances in itself do not adversely affect the working of institutions as all such institutions have also corresponding liabilities/commitments which are taken into account while deciding further releases. The Committee would like to point out that the very fact that small institutions have unspent balances and corresponding liabilities also, indicates that not only financial norms are not being adhered to but they are also not functioning as per their mandate. The Committee would, therefore, appreciate if corrective measures are initiated by the Department at the earliest. Committee's apprehensions are confirmed by pendency of audit paras against ICSSR, New Delhi, Central Hindi Directorate and CIIL, Mysore.**

### Action Taken

During 2009-10 Planning Commission had earmarked Rs.9600 crore under plan expenditure. It is a fact that the pace of expenditure upto December 2009 was not upto the targeted level, on account of various reasons, some of which were not within the control of Department of Higher Education. Keeping in view the pace of expenditure and requirement of funds, the plan outlay at Revised Estimates stage was scaled down to Rs.7952 crore as against Rs.9600 crore in BE 2009-10. The pace of the expenditure was geared up in the last quarter of financial year 2009-10 and the Department spent Rs.7839.98 crore under Plan during 2009-10 which is about 98.59% of the Revised Estimates. As far as non-plan is concerned, the Department of Higher Education had earmarked Rs.5833 crore as non-plan expenditure in BE 2009-10 which was subsequently enhanced to Rs.6437 crore in the RE stage. The actual non plan expenditure during 2009-10 was Rs.6179.36 crore which is nearly 96% of the RE figure. The allocation provided for the new schemes could

not be fully utilized due to delay in approval of some of the schemes during 2009-10. The department has been making concerted efforts to improve the funds utilization position.

#### **IV. TARGETS FOR ELEVENTH PLAN**

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

4.1 The Committee has noted that during the first three years of Eleventh Plan, Higher Education System of the country has seen a major expansion. Various new initiatives have been taken by opening new institutions and upgrading the existing ones. Many reform measures have also been taken to improve the quality of higher education. 'Inclusiveness' is also one of the major concerns during the Eleventh Plan. Many new schemes such as Women's Hostel; Model Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts, Education Loan Interest Subsidy, etc. have been initiated to ensure inclusiveness apart from making special provisions for reservation of seats for the disadvantaged sections.

##### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

4.2 Furthermore, the Government has initiated a process of academic reforms which includes the introduction of the semester system, regular upgradation and updating of syllabi, introduction of the choice-based credit system, which allows students to pick and choose courses to earn credit, etc. Apart from encouraging the State Governments to make investments for new institutions of higher learning, the Department is also expecting them to improve the infrastructure of the existing institutions as part of educational reforms.

##### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

4.3 Besides, a number of new laws for bringing major reforms like establishment of an overarching authority for Higher Education and Research, mandatory accreditation mechanism for higher educational institutions, prevention and prohibition of unfair practices and for setting up Educational Tribunals are proposed to be introduced in the near future.

##### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

4.4 One of the important targets for Eleventh Plan is to achieve 15 per cent of Gross Enrolment Ratio. While it was expected that State Government would also allocate more funds for education, the Central Government has taken the following measures to achieve the goal of 15 per cent GER:-

- (i) Setting up 16 new Central Universities.
- (ii) Setting up of 7 IIMs.



- (iii) Setting up of 8 IITs.
- (iv) 10 new NITs.
- (v) Setting up of 374 Model colleges in Educationally Backward Districts.
- (vi) Setting up of Hostels for women.
- (vii) 1000 new polytechnics.
- (viii) National Mission of Education through ICT.
- (ix) Capacity expansion in Central Educational Institutions.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

4.5 To ensure the growth of GER, number of initiatives for the participation of private sector in the higher education sector particularly relating to governance issues are being taken so that while on the one hand, private participation is encouraged on the other hand, quality is also maintained by making accreditation and assessment mandatory for all institutions instead of the present system of voluntary accreditation. Scheme of scholarships and interest subsidy on educational loans, have also been launched so that talented students are not denied opportunity to pursue higher education because of financial constraints.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

### **V. UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

5.1 The UGC was set up under an Act of Parliament in 1956 for the purpose of co-ordination, determination and maintenance of standards in universities. Apart from providing assistance grants to all eligible Universities and colleges, the Commission also advises the Central and State Governments to take measures which are necessary for the development of Higher Education.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

5.2 Plan Allocation for UGC and utilisation thereof during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan is as follows:-

*(Rs. in crores)*

2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals
2374.00	1805.10	1805.10	3439.95	3105.95	3165.95	4374.95	3584.85	2773.50

Although there has been steady increase in the plan allocation for UGC during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan, the same cannot be said about the utilisation. Every year, plan allocation had to be brought down at the RE stage. What is more worrisome is that percentage of increase in 2009-10 when compared with 2008-09 has been matched with the reduction at the RE stage.

### **Action Taken**

Although it is a fact that the utilization of funds by UGC was short compared to the Budget allocation, but the Commission had made realistic project through seeking the lower funds requirement at RE stage, which the department was able to fully utilize during 2007-08 & 2008-09 and was close to utilize in 2009-10. Making realistic projections at RE stage provides space to re-appropriate the amount in other scheme.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

5.3 Explaining the reasons for skewed variations in BE and RE outlay, the Department has clarified that in the BE for 2009-10, a sum of Rs. 827 crore was earmarked for the establishment of new Central Universities and Rs. 1033 crore were set aside for implementation of the Oversight Committee recommendations. However, due to delay in the issue of site selection and the transfer of possession of land identified by the State Governments for the Central Universities, the initiation of construction activities has to be staggered as a result of which the said sum could not be utilised. At the RE stage, while carrying out an assessment of the expected expenditures in 2009-10, the allocation of this component was revised to Rs. 277 crore which was further reduced to Rs. 200 crore after re-appropriation. Secondly, under Oversight Committee recommendations, recruitment of faculty did not progress sufficiently as a result of which a shortfall of Rs. 213 crores was envisaged at RE stage. The actual expenditure up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 against the RE allocation of RE 3589 crore was Rs. 2773.50 crore and as on 28th February, 2010, expenditure figures stood at Rs. 3233.45 crore. **The Committee appreciates the initial bottlenecks coming across in developing the infrastructure for new Central Universities but delay can certainly be checked through better coordination with the state authorities. The Committee also expects the desired level of cooperation from the states as it is on their initiatives the decision to open the Central Universities was taken by the Central Government. The Committee is, however, not satisfied with slow pace of faculty recruitment in accordance with the implementation of Oversight Committees' recommendations. The Committee recommends that urgent corrective measures needed to be taken up for addressing the requirement of additional faculty lest the very purpose of legal framework for reservation for OBC category might be seriously jeopardized.**

### **Action Taken**

UGC has informed that the Empowered Committee has already allocated/sanctioned teaching posts based on the DPRs submitted by Universities. In accordance with the implementation of Oversight Committees' recommendations, the status of appointment of teachers under OBC grant is given.

According to UGC, the major delay in the filling up of vacancies, as reported by the Universities is the non-finalization of the UGC Notification for appointment of teachers. Some other administrative problems viz. non-availability of reserved candidates, litigation related to appointments etc. are also among the reasons.

The draft UGC Notification, after examining representations against certain provisions of the notification from FEDCUTA (Federation of Central University Teachers' Association), has since been notified by UGC.

All the new Central Universities are in the process of framing their Statutes on establishment of Schools of Studies and Teaching Departments. Once these Statutes are framed, School-wise Selection Committees will be constituted for selection of regular faculty in accordance with the relevant Statutes. Meanwhile, the various Universities have appointed temporary/guest faculty on short-term contract basis to meet their immediate requirements.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

5.4 The Committee is not aware about the exact proposed outlay for UGC in Eleventh Plan, but from the trend of allocation and pace of utilisation, it can be concluded that it would be difficult to match the plan outlay, with only two years of the plan period remaining. The Committee notes that there is only marginal increase in the plan allocation for UGC from Rs. 4374.95 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 4390.00 crore in 2010-11. Enhanced funds in 2010-11 when compared with RE provision in 2009-10 are meant for establishing 374 model degree colleges, one-time support for colleges and state universities and for new Central Universities. The Committee would appreciate if with constant monitoring during 2010-11 reduction at the RE stage is avoided and allocated funds are utilised as envisaged.

### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.2 Research is an important component to ensure quality of higher education in the country. The Committee has noted that in order to promote basic scientific research in the Central Universities, greater emphasis is being laid on upgradation of infrastructural facilities, creation of networking centres in leading departments of Universities for collaborative research with national level institutions, including CSIR laboratories. The University Grants Commission has been advised that while releasing grants-in-aid to the institutes of higher learning, 20% of the grant may be earmarked exclusively for research related activities. The Central universities have also been given freedom to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with foreign universities for joint research collaborations.

### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.3 The following additional measures have been taken to promote research in universities:

- (i) Enhancing rates of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships by about 50%;
- (ii) Strengthening science based education and research in Universities;
- (iii) Disbursement of grant for presentation of research papers in international fora/conferences;
- (iv) Enhancing the quantum of research grant to Universities aimed at encouraging research;
- (v) Permitting the Universities to engage adjunct/guest faculty to meet the shortfall;
- (vi) Allowing contractual appointments for Faculty;

- (vii) Introducing Bose Fellowship aimed at strengthening research background of the distinguished faculty serving in India;
- (viii) Allowing consultancy charges to be shared by the faculty;
- (ix) Revamping Academic Staff Colleges; and
- (x) Organizing summer schools to train teachers; etc.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.4 It was informed to the Committee that to achieve excellence in teaching and research activities, UGC identifies universities for granting the status of “Universities with Potential for Excellence”. In the first phase during the Ninth Plan, five universities *viz.* Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Hyderabad, University of Madras, Jadavpur University and University of Pune were identified in 2000 for granting the status of Universities with Potential for Excellence. During the Tenth Plan, four universities, *viz.*, Madurai Kamraj University, North Eastern Hill University, University of Mumbai and University of Calcutta were selected. Under the scheme, each university is to be provided Rs.30 crore during a Plan period. Out of this, 30% (Rs.9 crore) is to be spent on the focused area identified for the university. The remaining 70% (Rs.21 crore) is to be spent on holistic development of the university.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.6 Closely related with quality is the aspect of accreditation of the institution. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council has the mandate to assess the standards of higher education institutions. The Committee has been given to understand that important institution, like Kumaon University, University of Roorkee and IIT are running though their validation expired long back. The Secretary during her oral evidence before the Committee clarified that since accreditation is not mandatory, it is not incumbent on the university to apply for revalidation. Once the mandatory nature of validation is in force, then the universities will be duty bound to come back for revalidation. She informed the Committee that 80 universities have valid accreditation so far. Fifty eight universities have not applied for revalidation of their accreditation. Fourteen universities are under the process of revalidation. Of the 80 universities which have valid accreditation, 35 are in the first cycle of validation and they are yet to be ripe of validation. The remaining are in the second cycle.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.9 **The Committee also takes this opportunity to urge upon the Government to include the aspects of character building and physical fitness as important components in the educational reforms so as to ensure holistic growth of our students. In this connection the**

**Committee desires to draw the attention of the Department to its recommendations/ observations contained in its 86th Report on value based education.**

### **Action Taken**

According to University Grants Commission (UGC), it has introduced Human Rights Education, scheme during 1985 and it is a continuing scheme. The scheme has the following main components:–

- (a) Human Rights and Duties;
- (b) Human Rights and Values;
- (c) Human Rights and Human Development.

The UGC provides financial assistance to the Universities/Colleges for introduction of the following courses:

- (i) A Foundation Course;
- (ii) A Certificate Course;
- (iii) An Undergraduate Course, *i.e.*, B.A. or B.A. (Hons.);
- (iv) A Post-Graduate Diploma Course;
- (v) A Post-Graduate Degree (MA/LLM) Course;
- (vi) Integrated Master Programme;
- (vii) Seminars/Symposia/Workshops;
- (viii) Moot Court/Mock Trial;
- (ix) Promoting Nodal Centers of Excellence;
- (x) Encouraging Publication of Books and Journals.

The following activities are also supported by the UGC under the scheme:

- (1) Research;
- (2) Teaching;
- (3) Organization of Seminars/Workshops/Conferences etc.

During, 2007-08, the UGC released Rs.30.00 lakhs to 30 Universities/Colleges. During 2008-09, as many as 173 Proposals out of 242 Proposals were approved and an amount of 5.13 crores was released to these institutions. During 2009-10, out of 436 Proposals, as many as 317 Proposals were approved and an amount of Rs.6.31 crores was released to these institutions. The proposals are being invited from Universities and Colleges for the year 2010-11.

## **VII. NEW CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

7.1 The Committee understands that the Department of Higher Education has made efforts to have at least one Central University in each State of the Union. At present, there are 40 Central Universities including 17 new Central Universities created with effect from 15th January, 2009. Out of the 17 new Central Universities, three State Universities have been converted into Central

Universities in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand. For each of the 14 Central Universities, the concerned State Government is to provide about 500 acres of land free of cost. Sites for 5 new Central Universities have been identified, land has been allotted to 5 such Universities out of the remaining 4 universities. Most of these Universities have started their academic activities from temporary premises during the year 2009-10 pending finalization of sites, allotment of lands and development of their permanent campuses. Government decision on recommendation of the Site Selection Committee for location of University in Himachal Pradesh was expected by 15th April, 2010. Site Selection Committee was to shortly visit the sites for University in Jharkhand. However, State Governments of Bihar and Kerala have been requested to suggest alternate sites. The Committee also notes that while land has been acquired for Central Universities in Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, identified land in Gujarat, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir is yet to be acquired and handed over. All the Universities except those in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are functioning from temporary campuses. Universities in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir were yet to start academic programmes. The Committee was also given to understand that requisite faculty positions for all the Central Universities have been sanctioned by UGC which were expected to be filled up before the academic session 2010-11. The Committee observes that all the New Central Universities created in January, 2009 are in the process of identification / allotment of land and thus are operating from temporary campuses.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

7.2 Most of these Universities are in the process of framing their Statutes/Ordinances on establishment of Schools of Studies and teaching Departments and on appointment of faculty. The action for appointment of the required faculty will be initiated by the respective Universities after the requisite Statutes/Ordinances are in place. Meanwhile, these Universities are running their academic programmes by appointment of contract/guest teachers.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

7.3 As things stand today, the Committee can only conclude that it would be a long drawn affair for the Central Universities to become fully operational, functioning from their permanent campuses with the required faculty and infrastructure in place. It has taken more than a year to identify and get allotted the sites for these universities and the process is still not complete in respect of some universities. As a result, funds amounting to Rs. 827 crore earmarked for their establishment in 2009-10 remained unspent. **The Committee strongly feels that process of construction should commence in respect of all the Central Universities in 2010-11 and got completed in a time bound manner. The Committee is unhappy that despite the preparatory exercise done by the Department and the UGC with regard to arrangements of faculty in newly created universities, the vacancies could not be filled up due to delay in finalization of statutes by respective universities. Given the seriousness of the issue, the Department should have fixed a time frame for finalizing these statutes. The Committee desires that the framing of statutes may be done without further delay so that the process of recruitment for the vacant posts of faculty could be started at the earliest.**

**It would be better if a Central Committee with representation from concerned State Government is assigned the task of monitoring both the required faculty and infrastructure of these Universities. This action is required to be taken if cost and time overruns are to be avoided.**

#### **Action Taken**

It is submitted that, since the site selection for all the new Central Universities, except for Bihar and Kerala has been finalized, process of construction is expected to commence in 2010-11 and is expected to be completed in a time bound manner without the cost and time overruns. Site selection and commencement of construction in 3 Central Universities as mentioned above would also be ensured.

The first statutes appended to the Central Universities Act are in force; however, as regards finalizing the statutes by new Central Universities, since they have complete academic and administrative autonomy, the Department can only impress upon the universities to expedite the process. The Department would continue to encourage the new Central Universities to ensure finalisation of statutes so that the process of recruitment for the vacant posts of faculty can be started at the earliest. As regards the formation of central committee with representation from concerned State Government to monitor recruitment of faculty and development of infrastructure, it is submitted that State Governments have no role in the recruitment of faculty as well as infrastructure development of new Central Universities other than to facilitate allotment and possession of land for the Campus at site. UGC has been asked to frame an appropriate mechanism to ensure recruitment of faculty and infrastructure development in a time bound manner.

### **VIII. VACANCIES IN FACULTIES OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

8.1 The Committee notes that about 3761 posts as against 9825 sanctioned posts are lying vacant in 15 Central Universities as on 1st January, 2010. Delhi University alone accounts for – 965 vacancies against 1702 sanctioned posts followed by Banaras Hindu University (BHU) having 905 vacant posts against 2395 sanctioned posts.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

8.2 On a specific query in this regard it was clarified by the Department that so far as BHU is concerned, though the number of reported vacancy is 905, filling up of 277 vacancies in the Institute of Technology have been kept in abeyance due to the proposal for upgradation of the Institute as an IIT being at an advanced stage of consideration of the Government. Besides, 492 posts, recently sanctioned for implementation of OBC recommendations are to be filled up in a phased manner. The number of effective vacancies in the University at present is, therefore, much lower than that of the reported vacancies. The University has completed scrutiny and short-listing of applications for 296 vacancies at the level of Lecturer and interviews in different Faculties are being scheduled one by one. The University has also recently advertised 55 vacancies at the level of Reader and 23 at the level of Professor in the Institute of Medical Sciences and is also in the process of advertising the vacancies at these levels in the remaining faculties. These vacancies are planned to be filled up in the next six months.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

8.3 As regards the University of Delhi, out of the 965 vacancies, 646 posts have been sanctioned only recently for implementation of OBC recommendations. The posts are to be filled up in a phased manner, over a period of three years. 202 of these posts would become available for filling up only *w.e.f.* 2010-11. The number of vacancies to be actually filled up during the current year is, therefore, 763. The University has already advertised 729 posts. It was informed that the interviews for several Departments under the Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Commerce & Business and Mathematical Sciences have been scheduled to be conducted in the coming three months.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

8.4 The Department while mentioning the reasons for vacancies clarified that the process for selection of faculty in Central Universities is quite lengthy and time consuming. These applicants are listed post-wise and category-wise for the Screening Committee constituted by the Executive Council to shortlist the candidates to be called for the interview. Sometimes it becomes difficult for the Visitor's nominees, particularly in multi-department Faculties, to give dates frequently for holding Selection Committee meetings which also causes delay in filling up of the vacancies. As a possible solution, the feasibility of having more than one nominee for each faculty was proposed but the same has not been found acceptable by the Visitor.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

8.5 According to the Department, besides other administrative problems like non-availability of reserved candidates, litigation related to appointments etc., the major delay in the filling up of vacancies is the non-finalization of the UGC Notification for appointment of teachers. UGC has on 18 February, 2010 issued instructions to all State/Central/ Deemed Universities informing them that the regulations on service conditions of teachers based on Pay Review Committee for Teachers are likely to be finalized shortly.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

8.6 The Secretary of the Department during her presentation before the Committee conceded that the quality of faculty remains a very severe and significant challenge. She added that with the kind of expansion of higher education and increase in the number of institutions, the Department is faced with a problem of very serious dimension. Still they are making very conscious and concerted efforts to address the issue. She assured the Committee that they would not make any compromise in the quality and in the qualification framework prescribed for faculty. For that



matter, a large number of teachers are being put through the winter schools and summer schools for training exposures. She also accepted that there are problems in finding the right kind of faculty. The Committee was informed that regular faculty in new Central Universities would be appointed only after the requisite statutes and establishment of Schools/Departments are framed and the school wise Selection Committees are constituted in accordance with the relevant statutes. A total under of 70 teachers have so far been appointed on ad-hoc/contract/deputation basis. Besides, teachers/retired teachers of other universities are invited by these universities from time to time as guest/visiting faculty.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

8.7 It has come to the notice of the Committee that earlier the Federation of Central Universities Teachers Association (FEDCUTA) had demanded that for promotion of Assistant Professors to Associate Professors in colleges, the requirement of publication of three articles should be done away with. The Association had further demanded that the process of selection and promotion should be different for direct recruitment of Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors from that of promotion from Associate Professor and Professor, and that weightage should be given for “teaching” activities in the matter of promotions, higher AGP of Rs.12000/- to all Professors, and increased retirement age of 65 for Librarians.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

8.8 Moreover the Federation of Central Universities Teachers Association (FEDCUTA) does not favour introduction of Academic Performance Indicator (API) system, particularly in relation to research and academic contributions on the ground that sufficient research facilities are not available in colleges. Representatives of FEDCUTA had raised strong objections to the proposed UGC regulations on 30.1.2010 particularly against the Academic Performance Indicator (API), Weightage Points (WP) and Performance Based Appraisal System (PBAS) and point system for promotion of teachers. The Committee was given to understand that a final decision was to be taken after consultation with UGC and others based on the inputs received from FEDCUTA. The Committee would appreciate if this issue is resolved at the earliest so that studies are allowed to continue in a healthy atmosphere at Delhi University.

#### **Action Taken**

UGC has constituted an Anomaly Committee to examine the proposed UGC regulations. The Committee has already invited suggestions from all concerned for evaluating expediency of modifications in the proposed regulations.

### **IX. STRENGTHNING OF 6000 COLLEGES IN 150 STATE UNIVERSITIES**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

The Eleventh Plan envisages a scheme to extend one-time support for strengthening 6000

colleges in 150 State Universities which are not presently declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act. The Committee was informed that the UGC (Fitness of Certain Universities for Grants) Rules, 1974 and the UGC (Fitness of Institutions for Grants) Rules, 1975 require certain conditions to be met before grants could be provided by UGC which prevented the UGC from implementing the envisaged scheme. **The Committee is happy to note that in order to operationalise the scheme, amendments to the aforesaid Rules have been notified on 8th August, 2009. At present the process of formulation of guidelines for the implementation of the scheme by the UGC is going on. The Committee would like to point out that already considerable time has been taken since the notification of the Rules in August, 2009. In fact, the guidelines should have been circulated to the concerned State Universities by now. The Committee would appreciate if the process is expedited and the scheme is implemented from 2010-11 itself.**

#### **Action Taken**

UGC has informed that it has framed the guidelines for the implementation of the Scheme which have been approved in the meeting of the Commission held on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. It has been decided to provide a grant limited to Rs.2.0 crore to each uncovered college and Rs.10.0 crore to each uncovered university on a matching grant basis (50:50). The Department has allocated an amount of Rs.500 crores for the implementation of the Scheme during the financial year 2010-11. UGC has assured that the guidelines shall be notified to all State Governments and universities shortly and the Scheme shall be implemented in 2010-11.

### **X. DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITIES**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

10.1 Deemed to be Universities are the institutions of higher education other than universities that are so declared, on the advice of UGC, by the Central Government under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

10.2 There are 130 Deemed Universities in the country out of which 58 institutions were declared as deemed to be universities during the last five years only. The Committee is aware of the recent developments with regard to de-recognition of Deemed University status in respect of 44 institutions, a decision which was later stayed by the Apex Court. When the Committee desired to know the exact policy with regard to awarding status of deemed university, the Department clarified that a Task Force has been constituted by the Government to prepare an action plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee which has given its part-final report only, *i.e.*, on only one of the two terms of references – protecting the interest of students on revoking declaration of the concerned deemed to be university. The Task Force is yet to give its report on regulation of deemed universities, the draft of which was forwarded by UGC to the Central Government and had been referred to the Task Force by the Government. The proposed regulations would replace the UGC guidelines, 2000, which are currently in force. **The Committee would like the Department to keep the interests of students uppermost while revising the regulations. It desires that the much awaited UGC regulations may be formulated after due consultations with all stakeholders. It would also**

**urge upon the Department to expedite the notification of regulations without any further delay.**

### **Action Taken**

In view of the changes in the field of education and the fact that the extant UGC Guidelines on 'deemed to be universities' were framed in 2000, the University Grants Commission decided to review these guidelines in December, 2004. The process continued till May, 2006. However, in 2007, the Commission decided to frame comprehensive 'regulations' instead of 'guidelines' with regard to institutions deemed to be universities. This was independent of the PIL that was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court by Shri Viplav Sharma in April, 2006 [WP(C) No. 142/2006 – Viplav Sharma vs. UOI & Ors], which alleged indiscriminate proliferation of 'universities' and urged for framing new regulations for declaring an institution as an institution deemed to be a university.

Meanwhile, the Government being aware of the public perception regarding decrease in academic standards in certain institutions deemed to be universities, decided (on 4.6.2009) to review the functioning of the existing deemed to be universities and to examine the process of declaration and the extant guidelines/draft regulations. Accordingly, a Review Committee comprising of independent experts was constituted by the Government on 06.07.2009 to review the functioning of existing institutions 'deemed to be universities' to ascertain whether these institutions were indeed serving the purposes for which they were so declared and whether they complied with the conditions stipulated in the notification. It was also decided to freeze all new applications for declaration, as institutions 'deemed to be university'.

After receipt of the report of the Review Committee, a Task Force, consisting of the same members as that of the Review Committee, was set up to advise the Government on an action plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee. The terms of reference were – (a) protecting interests of students and (b) examining draft UGC Regulations on deemed to be universities on the lines of the observations of the Review Committee. The Task Force has since submitted their report.

The review is presently *sub judice* in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Viplav Sharma matter [WP(C) No. 142 /2006] and the Hon'ble Apex Court has directed the Government to maintain *status quo* with regard to the institutions deemed to be universities which were found unfit to continue as such by the Review Committee.

The draft UGC regulations on institutions deemed to be universities were sent by the Commission for the Government's approval. After examining the recommendations of the Task Force on this point, the Government conveyed approval of 'UGC (Institutions deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010'. The notification has been published in the Official Gazette on 21/5/2010.

## **XI. PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

11.1 As on 18.03.2010, there are 59 Universities established by State Legislatures without public funding (*i.e.* Private Universities). Under the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, UGC is supposed to call for information in prescribed proforma for ascertaining the norms and standards of Private Universities and constitute Expert Committees for their inspection to ascertain the physical and infrastructural facilities provided by Universities and also to call for their compliance on the deficiencies, if any.

**Action Taken**

The suggestion has been noted for appropriate action.

**Recommendations/Observations**

11.2 The Committee was informed the UGC has inspected 23 private universities so far. Status of inspected universities has been posted on the UGC website for information of public at large and the student community in particular. UGC has also issued a public notice with regard to the jurisdiction of State Private Universities in which the UGC has categorically stated that such Universities cannot operate beyond their jurisdiction *i.e.* the State in which their main campus is situated. As a result a number of many off-campus, which were being operated by these Universities earlier, have been closed.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**XII. STATUS OF WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION****Recommendations/Observations**

12.1 The Committee was informed that the UGC has five schemes for Women *i.e.* (i) 'Development of Women's Studies in Indian Universities and Colleges' and (ii) Capacity Building for Women Managers in Higher Education (iii) Construction of Women Hostel for Colleges (iv) Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child pursuing higher education and (v) Post Doctoral Fellowship for Women. The University Grants Commission had promoted, strengthened and given direction to the Women's Studies Programme in the country since the VII<sup>th</sup> Plan period. Women's Studies Centres have been established in the University System in the VIII<sup>th</sup>, IX<sup>th</sup>, X<sup>th</sup> and XI<sup>th</sup> Plan periods. They have contributed significantly to the expansion of Women's Studies teaching, research and field action. Now, the thrust is to develop field action projects for action, research, evaluation and enhancement of knowledge and partnership across boundaries of caste/class/religion, community and occupations and to involve many more people and many more organizations in the network as well as to ensure the focus and the quality of newly emerging disciplines are maintained.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**(i) DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES****Recommendations/Observations**

12.2 The scheme envisages assistance to Universities for setting up new women study centres as well as to strengthen and sustain the university study centres set up in Tenth Plan by establishing them as statutory departments in the university system, as also to facilitate their capacity to network with other constituents so that they are mutually reinforcing as well as synergizing one and another. The primary role of these centres is to make knowledge stimulation and knowledge transmission through teaching and research. It was informed that prior to Eleventh Plan, 67 Women Studies Centres were in existence. During Eleventh Plan, 64 new centres have been established in various Universities/Colleges. At present, there are 131 Women Studies Centres

(72 in universities and 59 in Colleges). Universities/Colleges with deficient proposals have been requested to send their revised proposals for establishment of Women Studies Centres. As per Eleventh Plan Guidelines, the UGC provides annual financial assistance to Women's Studies Centres in Universities @ Rs. 5 lakh in Phase-I, Rs. 8 lakh in Phase-II and Rs. 12 lakh in phase-III. For the Centres set up in colleges, annual assistance is given @ Rs. 3 lakh in phase-I, Rs. 5 lakh in Phase-II and Rs. 8 lakh in Phase-III.

During the Eleventh Plan so far grants amounting to Rs. 11.53 crore have been released to the Universities/Colleges for Women Studies Centres.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **(ii) CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN MANAGERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

12.4 The scheme for the Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education is focused on women in higher education in the academic and administrative streams to sensitise and motivate them and, subsequently, equip them for decision-making positions in the higher education system where currently they occupy very few such positions. The purpose of this scheme is to develop a critical mass of gender sensitised women administrators to create a gender friendly environment and to remove the glass ceiling. Capacity building is through activities like Sensitization Awareness Motivation Workshops, developments and distribution of resource material, research stimulation workshops, management skill workshop etc.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

12.5 During Eleventh Plan, 15 Training of Trainers Workshops, 4 Refresher and 109 Sensitisation Awareness Motivation Workshops have been organized by various universities and colleges. During Eleventh Plan, the grants released to the Universities/Colleges for this scheme are Rs.0.54 crore in 2007-08, Rs.3.00 crore in 2008-09 and Rs.1.63 crore in 2009-10.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

**12.6 The Committee would like to have an idea about the level of participation, university-wise during Eleventh Plan. The Committee would appreciate if an evaluation of scheme is also undertaken so that an assessment about its impact can be made and necessary corrective measures initiated, wherever required.**

#### **Action Taken**

According to UGC, the participants in the workshops organized by various Universities/Colleges under the scheme of "Capacity Building for Women's Managers in Higher Education" are Middle and Senior level Lecturers, Readers, Professors, Head of the Departments, Deans, Principals, Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Librarians and Deputy Librarians.

The evaluation of the scheme is being done by the members of the National Consultative Committee on the scheme of “Capacity Building for Women’s Managers in Higher Education” *i.e.* one from the Core group and one Regional Co-coordinator. The report is currently being prepared and will be reported to the UGC in the next meeting of National Consultative Committee on the scheme. The meeting of the members of the National Consultative Committee is held in once in a year to discuss the impact of the programme. Region-wise and University-wise list of workshops organized during XI<sup>th</sup> Plan is given.

**(iii) CONSTRUCTION OF WOMEN HOSTELS FOR COLLEGES**

**Recommendations/Observations**

12.7 The main objective of the scheme is to support all the eligible colleges for construction of hostels for women in order to provide accommodation for women students/researchers/teachers and other staff. Preference is given to women colleges located in rural areas, followed by colleges located in urban areas, co-education colleges in rural areas, co-education colleges located in urban areas and women colleges and coeducation colleges located in metro cities. Rate of assistance is from Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 80 lakh in non-metro cities and from Rs. 80 lakh to 120 lakhs in metro cities, depending on the size of women enrolment in the colleges.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**(iv) INDIRA GANDHI SCHOLARSHIP FOR SINGLE GIRL CHILD FOR PURSUING HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

**Recommendations/Observations**

12.9 There is an important scheme namely Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child for Pursuing Higher and Technical Education under which the girl students upto the age of 30 years at the time of admission to Postgraduate courses are eligible for a scholarship of Rs.2000/- per month for 20 months. Under this scheme 1200 scholarships can be awarded every year.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

12.10 The selection of the candidates for the scholarship is made on the basis of the recommendations of an Expert Committee appointed by the UGC as per the basis of the following criteria:

- (i) The applicant-girl should be the only child in the family.
- (ii) The applicant-girl should have been admitted to a non-professional Master’s Degree course.
- (iii) The applicant-girl should be less than 30 years of age at the time of admission.

According to information made available to the Committee, 1538 scholarships were awarded during 2009-10 under the Scheme. The Committee notes that the students from West Bengal (496),

Kerala (287), Tamil Nadu (262), Andhra Pradesh (102) and Karnataka (89) have dominated in the number of scholarships awarded under the Scheme. This is the position when wide publicity to the Scheme was given by the UGC by publishing advertisements in all National Dailies (Hindi & English) along with regional publications, the Employment News/Rojgar Samachar. The Scheme has also been publicised through the website of UGC. During the current year, UGC has received over 2500 applications for the award of scholarships under the Scheme.

#### **Action Taken**

Position clarified in Action Taken with respect to Para 12.11.

### **XIV. SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

14.1 Under this scheme financial assistance is given to cover 82 thousand meritorious students not belonging to the creamy layer for pursuing higher studies every year. Student getting 80 per cent marks in Class–XII Board exam identified by the State Boards are eligible for the assistance. Scholarship of Rs.1000/- p.m. is paid for the first three years of graduation level and Rs.2000/- p.m. for next two years of post-graduate level in general courses and for graduation level in professional courses.

#### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

14.2 The Committee notes 26,552 students in 2008-09 and 34,172 students in 2009-10 were granted scholarship under the scheme. State-wise details indicate an uneven spread of the scheme. While in 2008-09 maximum beneficiaries were from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and the students recommended by CBSE, in 2009-10 majority of the students were from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka along with the students sponsored by CBSE. The Committee notes that the scholarship allocation to the States has been in the ratio of population for the States in 18-25 years age group. **The Committee is not prepared to believe that States like U.P. and Bihar having a big concentration of youth in the 18-25 years age groups do not have students securing 80% marks. While not even a single student from Bihar was covered during 2008-09, only 2 students from the State could get the benefit in 2009-10. Similarly, while 1477 students from U.P. were covered in 2008-09, only 39 students from the State could be covered during 2009-10. Chhattishgarh is another peculiar case. While the State failed to submit the eligibility list during 2008-09, no student could be covered during 2009-10, reason being that UCs were not furnished in spite of funds sanctioned for 1387 scholarships in 2008-09. It seems that there is no monitoring mechanism under the scheme and even if it is there the same cannot be treated effective enough. The Committee wonders as to why both the State Boards and also the students seem so disinclined to get the benefit of the scheme. The Committee recommends that an effective monitoring mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure maximum coverage as per the prescribed criteria. In this age of IT advancement when results are available on Internet, it is not a complicated job to get the data of eligible students from the State boards which can be then pursued to approach the selected students for getting the formalities completed.**

**Action Taken**

It is learnt from the State Education Boards of U.P. and Bihar that the system of marking in these States is very stringent and thus very few students could score 80% and above marks. Keeping this in view and in order to provide more students, especially from these States, an opportunity to avail of this scheme, the criteria has been revised to 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in the respective stream, from the academic year 2010-11.

In the case of Chhattisgarh, since no eligibility list was furnished by the State Education Board for 2008-09, funds were sanctioned on a *pro rata* basis. In the absence of the Utilization Certificate, renewal scholarship for 2008-09 could not be sanctioned. For 2009-10, no State was given the funds on a *pro rata* basis and since the State Education Board of Chhattisgarh did not furnish the eligibility list, funds were not sanctioned to them. Funds can be sanctioned even at this stage as soon as the eligibility list is furnished by the State Education Boards.

It is pointed out that many students avail of some other scholarship which is more beneficial to them and since a student can avail of only one scholarship scheme at a time, some States are not able to utilize the full quota of scholarships allocated to them. The progress of disbursement of scholarship is being monitored through the State Education Boards which inform this Department about any problem that may arise in the disbursement. Also in this regard meetings are held in this Department with Chairmen/Secretaries of the State Education Boards, from time to time.

**XV. EDUCATIONAL LOAN INTEREST SUBSIDY****Recommendations/Observations**

15.1 The scheme for providing interest subsidy on educational loans obtained by students belonging to economically weaker sections of the society for pursuit of professional education was approved by the Government in August, 2009. The objective of the scheme is that talented students are not deprived opportunity to pursue higher education because of financial constraints. The scheme is applicable from the academic year 2009-10. The Ministry has written to the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on 8.9.2009 to inform all the Scheduled Banks, who are its members, of the Scheme and to give wide publicity to it. Under this scheme, it is proposed to provide subsidy on the interest on loan borrowed from the banks for pursuing professional education. Canara Bank is the nodal bank for the Department for the implementation of the scheme. The entire amount of interest on loans during the moratorium period (course duration + 1 year or date of employment whichever is earlier) will be met by Central Government for eligible students. The benefits under the Scheme would be available to those students belonging to economically weaker sections, with an upper limit of annual parental income of Rs. 4.5 lakh per year.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

15.2 The Committee was informed that a sum of Rs. 500 crore has been earmarked in 2010-11 for the scheme. A sum of Rs. 10 lakh earmarked for 2009-10 could not be utilized as no advise/claim was received in that regard.

**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.



## XVI. INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

### Recommendations/Observations

16.1 IGNOU was established under an Act of Parliament in 1985 to provide access to higher education to all sections of the population, especially the disadvantaged groups, to impart continuing education to upgrade knowledge and skill, and to initiate special programmes of higher education for specific target groups like women, people living in backward regions, hilly areas, etc.

### Action Taken

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

### Recommendations/Observations

16.2 Under the existing pattern of funding, IGNOU is supported by Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) only by way of Plan funding. No non-Plan funds are released to the University which mobilises its own resources through academic receipts, income from investments, royalty, publications, interest earned and other income, etc. The details of the receipts (including Budgetary allocation by Ministry of Human Resource Development) and expenditure of IGNOU during the last three years are indicated below:

*(Rs in crores)*

2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
Receipts (*including GIA released by MHRD)	Expenditure	Receipts (**including GIA released by MHRD)	Expenditure	Receipts (***including, GIA released by MHRD)	Expenditure
280.67	236.24	307.00	261.64	432.20	428.56
*2006-07 Rs.95.05		**2007-08 Rs.67.66		***2008-09 Rs.86.78	

### Action Taken

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

### Recommendations/Observations

16.3 The Annual Plan Outlay for 2010-11 in respect of IGNOU is Rs.91 crore which includes Rs. 90 crore as plan allocation of which IGNOU had submitted its new Plan Proposals for Eleventh Plan period, which were examined in the Department and placed before the EFC on 24.11.2009 wherein IGNOU was asked to modify their new schemes viz. Skill Development and Community College scheme. No document/proposal form was received from IGNOU. The Budget outlay as approved in respect of IGNOU for 2010-11 will be sufficient for the existing scheme of IGNOU and new schemes shall be started only after the approval by EFC during the remaining period of XI<sup>th</sup> Plan.

### Action Taken

Annual Plan out lay for IGNOU for the year 2010-11 has been approved as 101.00 crore (including 1.00 crore as token provision under Non Plan). As regards new proposal included in the

EFC of IGNOU for 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period is concerned, IGNOU has not submitted the recast proposals under Skill Development and Community Colleges as per the directive given by EFC in its meeting held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Expenditure on 24.11.2009. However, IGNOU has been reminded in the matter.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

16.4 The Committee is quite satisfied to know that more than 2.5 million students are enrolled in IGNOU. It has been possible because of good quality and affordable education available to the common people through this renowned institution. The Committee, however, notes that though there is a marginal increase of Rs. 10 crores in the outlay for 2010-11, with the surplus receipts the University should be in a position to take care of the investment for its diverse activities particularly those aimed to improve the quality of educational facilities. In fact more similar institutions should be set up to address the growing needs of education in the country particularly to help the poor people. The Committee would, therefore, recommend higher allocation for expansion of open universities and institutions in the country. At the same time, the Committee would advise IGNOU to monitor its activities in North Eastern Sector where funds are not being utilized. IGNOU should also review both its reach as well as the quality of education offered for ensuring both deeper access and improved quality.

### **Action Taken**

The University has been requested to take note of the observations of PSC for compliance. The other recommendations of the Committee have also been noted by the Ministry for appropriate action.

## **XVII. NATIONAL MISSION IN EDUCATION THROUGH I.C.T.**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

17.1 The objective of this scheme is to develop system of identification and nurture the talent of human resources of the country and providing learning modules to address the personalised needs of the learners. The scheme also envisages effective utilisation of intellectual resources, certification of knowledge acquired by the learners either through formal or informal system, as also building database of capabilities, capacities and talent of country's human resources.

### **Action Taken**

Factual position.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

17.2 The Committee notes that out of Rs. 900 crores plan allocation for 2009-10, only Rs. 78 crore could be utilised upto 29th March, 2010. The budgetary allocation of Rs. 810 crore in BE 2009-10 was revised to 280 crore at RE stage and now Rs. 810 crores again have been earmarked for year 2010-11. The Committee finds that even during 2008-09, out of Rs. 502 crores, the Department could manage to utilise only Rs. 361 crore. The Department has clarified that the shortfall was because the scheme was approved by the Government in January, 2009 only. As regards the underutilization in 2009-10, the Ministry has clarified that the universities which were to be provided connectivity with the POP of National Knowledge Network could not be connected because the scheme of National Knowledge Network has been recently approved by the

Government. **The Committee fails to understand the inordinate delay in such administrative and procedural issues. The Committee is of firm view that corrective measures should be taken to ensure optimum utilisation of fund under this scheme during the current financial year.**

### Action Taken

Comments expressed by the Committee have been noted for compliance.

## XVIII. TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### Recommendations/Observations

18.1 Technical education plays a vital role in human resource development of the country by creating skilled manpower, enhancing industrial productivity and improving the quality of life. It covers courses and programmes in engineering, technology, management, architecture town planning, pharmacy and applied arts and crafts, hotel management and catering technology. Technical education in India can be broadly classified into three categories *viz.*: (i) Central Government funded institutions, (ii) State Government/State funded institutions and (iii) Self-financed institutions. As per the information made available to the Committee there are 65 Centrally funded institutions of technical and science education as per the following details :

Centrally Funded Institutions	Number of Institutions
Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)	15
Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)	7
Indian Institute of Science (IISc.)	1
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs)	5
National Institutes of Technology (NITs)	20
National Institutes of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTRs)	4
Others	4
School of Planning and Architecture (SPAs)-3, Indian School of Mines (ISM), North-East Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology (NIFFT), Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology (SLIET), Central Institute of Technology (CIT)	9

In 2009-10 several measures were taken to implement the Government's vision of providing increased access with the quality and excellence. Setting up of new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), assisting the State Government in setting up new Polytechniques and the initiation of process for setting up of Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) are the new steps in this direction. Besides the Central Government is also implementing two schemes/programmes *viz.* (i) Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) assisted by the World Bank; and (ii) Indian National Digital Library for Science and Technology (INDLST).

### Action Taken

During the XIth Plan Period, it has been decided to open ten new National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in those States/UTs which do not have an NIT as on date. During the year 2009-10, Government has approved the establishment of 10 new NITs in the States of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Goa (catering to the needs of Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep), Delhi (also catering to the needs of Chandigarh) and in the UT of Puducherry (also catering to the needs of A and N Islands). The Ministry of Human Resource Development has already initiated a time-bound programme for their establishment. The first academic session of these new NITs is to start from July, 2010.

### Recommendations/Observations

18.2 The total allocations for technical education during 2010-11 is Rs. 6011.55 crore which includes Rs. 4266.03 crore as Plan and Rs. 1745.52 crore as non Plan outlay. **The Committee notes that the Plan allocation for 2010-11 has increased by 20 per cent in comparison of 2009-10. However, the non Plan outlay has gone down from Rs. 1890 crore to Rs. 1745.52 crore.**

### Action Taken

Factual position.

### Recommendations/Observations

18.3 The Committee while deliberating upon the budgetary allocations of technical education has focused its attention on two issues namely, (i) the infrastructure in the Indian institutions and (ii) the shortage of faculty. Vacancy position in IITs and IIMs is as follows:

Name of Institute	Faculty sanctioned strength	Faculty in position	Vacant positions	Vacancy as % of sanctioned strength
IITs	4367	2982	1345	30%
IIMs	468	387	81	17%

The Department has informed that the following steps have been taken with regard to faculty recruitment, inculcation and retention in Government and Centrally funded technical institutes :

- (i) The age of retirement has been increased from 62 to 65 years and can go upto 70 years with the approval of the Visitor.
- (ii) The Sixth Central Pay Commission has substantially increased the salary of faculty and staff, which is proving to be effective in attracting and retaining good faculty.
- (iii) The Directors of IITs have been conducting special interviews abroad for outstanding faculty.
- (iv) The leave rules in these premier institutions have been relaxed in order to encourage the faculty to take research and consultancy work within and outside the country.
- (v) Attractive start-up grants are provided by the institutes for research.

- (vi) For attracting outstanding young faculty members, fellowships are offered in addition to salary. Similarly, for senior faculty, chairs have been instituted which are attractive add-ons to the salary.
- (vii) The Institutes strive to provide good facilities such as good residential accommodation as also medical and educational facilities for the family of the faculty.
- (viii) The IITs have increased the intake in PhD programmes so that there is an increase in the number of eligible persons to take up faculty positions in future.
- (ix) The faculty can attend national and international seminars/workshops during a block period of 3 years for which a grant of Rs.3.00 lakhs is made available.

### **Action Taken**

The faculty recruitment in Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) is a continuous process and highest standards of efficiency and competence are important considerations in the selection process. While new faculties are intended to be added in line with the expansion in academic activities, there is acute shortage of suitable candidates. Suitable candidates find Institutes' compensation low as compared to University options outside India or Industry options within India. Following sourcing methods are adopted to get best faculty: (a) Advertisement in national daily and other publications, (b) Display of advertisement in our website and notice boards, (c) Display of Qualitative Requirement in other Management Institutions/Universities/Foreign embassies, etc. The IIMs are making various efforts to fill all the sanctioned faculty posts. A total of 483 faculty posts have been sanctioned to IIMs in which 388 posts are filled up as on December, 2009.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

18.4 The Department has shared the following status of faculty recruitment in respect of the newly established IITs:

Institute	Number of faculty posts	
	Sanctioned intake	Joined
IIT, Hyderabad	60	35
IIT, Patna	60	32
IIT, Jodhpur	60	12
IIT, Bhubaneswar	60	34
IIT, Gandhinagar	60	24
IIT, Indore	30	24
IIT, Mandi	30	
IIT, Ropar	60	12

The Committee finds that in most of these newly established IITs the faculty in position is very low. Surprisingly no recruitment has taken place against the 30 sanctioned posts in IIT,

Mandi. The Committee is deeply concerned about the 30 to 80 per cent vacancies of faculty existing in our IITs. These institutions are pioneer institutions of our country and showcase our intellectual property to the world at large. Therefore, vacancies to that extent cannot be allowed to continue. The Committee calls upon the Department to ensure filling up all such positions within the first quarter of the academic session 2010-11. The Committee would like these institutions to constitute a strategic group to monitor every quarter, the progress made in filling the existing vacancies and place it before their respective Board for guidance on steps needed to substantially bring down the existing vacancies.

#### Action Taken

Several steps have been taken to rectify the position of shortage of faculty. These measures have been enumerated in the reply to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. In the case of new IITs where the shortage could have been upto 80% at the time of review, the situation has greatly improved since selection for recruiting new faculty is going on. The new IITs are also engaging visiting faculty from mentoring IITs to bridge the gap.

The suggestion of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to constitute a strategic group to monitor quarterly progress made in filling the existing, vacancies and placing it before their respective Boards will be placed in the next meeting of the Council of IITs for a decision.

#### Recommendations/Observations

18.5 The Department has furnished the following schedule for completion of infrastructure with regard to 8 IITs:

Indicators	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Fixing of location	Done	—	—	—
Acquisition of Land	Done	—	—	—
Civil Construction	Started in 3 out of 8 IITs	Start construction in all 8 IITs	Continue in all 8 IITs.	Will be completed in all IITs.

It transpires from the above chart that while fixing of location and acquisition of land in respect all eight IIT's has been done, the civil construction in respect thereof would be completed by 2012-13. Elaborating further, the Department apprised that civil construction including construction of boundary walls has started in IITs at Bhubaneswar, Ropar and Hyderabad. In rest of the IITs, the work will start during 2010-11. **The Committee would like the Department to strictly adhere to the schedule which they have shared with the Committee. Any delay in completion should not only amount to cost overrun but also deprive the students of the precious opportunities to be made available through these premier institutes.**

#### Action Taken

The suggestions have been noted for compliance.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

18.6 The Committee observes that out of new six IIMs, four IIMs at Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Rohtak (Haryana), Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu) would become functional from the academic session 2010-11. The Committee hopes that there would be no hurdles in this regard. There should be no undue delay in finalisation of temporary campuses for the remaining two new IIMs proposed for Kashipur (Uttarakhand) and Udaipur (Rajasthan). The Committee would also appreciate if process for creation and selection of faculty for all the IIMs also starts at the earliest. Similarly, since land has already been allotted for all the IIMs, preparatory exercise for commencement of construction work must have started by now. If not, it should start without further delay followed by construction in a time bound manner. The Committee calls upon the Department to prepare a status report at the end of four months in the fiscal year and furnish the same for its consideration.

### **Action Taken**

The societies of IIMs at Rohtak (Haryana), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu) and Kashipur (Uttarakhand) have been registered. Regular PGP course at IIM-Rohtak and IIM-Ranchi has started from the academic year 2010-11. In case of IIM Raipur and Tiruchirappalli, short-term executive courses will be started from academic session 2010-11. The regular PGP course in these IIMs would start from next academic session.

Minister of HRD has approved the name of person for appointment to the posts of Directors of four new IIMs at Rohtak, Ranchi, Raipur, Tiruchirappalli and the same has been sent to the ACC for its approval/concurrence. As soon as regular Director takes charges at respective IIMs, the construction work would start.

## **XIX. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

19.1 All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE) grants approval for starting new technical institutions and for introduction of new courses. It also lays down norms and standards for such institutions. It further ensures quality development of technical education through accreditation of technical programmes. In addition to its regulatory role, the AICTE has also a promotional role which it implements through schemes for promoting technical education for women, handicapped and weaker sections of the society, promoting innovations, faculty development and research giving grants to technical institutions. Technical institutions under the AICTE include Post-Graduate, Under-Graduate and Diploma in whole spectrum of technical education, covering engineering/technology, pharmacy, architecture, hotel management and catering technology, management studies, computer applications and applied arts and crafts.

### **Action Taken**

Factual position.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

19.2 According to the Department, a provision of Rs. 200 crore has been allocated for AICTE during 2009-10 and an allocation of Rs. 220 crore has been made for AICTE in BE 2010-11.

Elaborating the achievements of AICTE the Department has mentioned that AICTE has introduced e-governance in its approval process through a web portal which was placed in the public domain on 10th January, 2010. The Council has also revised the norms and standards for granting various kinds of approvals to the technical institutions. These revised norms have already been notified on 6th February, 2010 and uploaded on the AICTE's portal [www.aicte.india.org](http://www.aicte.india.org) along with the "Approval Process Handbook-2010". AICTE has launched another portal [www.nba.india.org](http://www.nba.india.org). The Department has claimed that both the portals have been very effective in terms of their use to the stakeholders. In two months since launching of AICTE portals over 20 lakh users have visited the same. The entire approval process for establishing new institutions has been made online. 2206 applications have been received for setting up new institutions in the country which is more than the applications received last year in paper mode. The Department claims that students' interest was constantly before the Government to ensure that the AICTE adheres to the deadlines for granting approvals to institutions and address the grievances of students.

#### **Action Taken**

Factual position.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

19.3 The Committee had extensively deliberated upon the functioning of AICTE including the amendments to the AICTE Act in its 211th Report and gave a number of suggestions for improvement in the approval/inspections mechanism, fee structure, the issues relating to unapproved institutions, the faculty etc. The Action Taken Notes received from the Department were not found satisfactory and the Committee had to take oral evidence of the representatives of the Department along with AICTE officials twice. The Committee intends to continue its study on those Action Taken Notes received from the Department. The new portals of AICTE have been the matter of interest for the Committee during recent deliberations on the Demand for Grants. The Committee pointed out that there are complaints from the applicants that although they have been able to upload their registration but failed to make the payment. There are instances where payment was made but the uploading of the application failed. Then there are doubts prevailing about the loans applied online. The Chairman of AICTE informed that they have issued 17954 passwords and IDs for people who have applied for extension of approval. He conceded that there are several problems in the operation of portal. It was mentioned that the bandwidth that is required at the user end is 2 mbps and 1:1, not shared line. The institutions were expected to follow these minimum specifications. He further conceded that there is problem both at user end as well as at AICTE end. As regard the procedure for approvals, he mentioned that the entire information about the institutions applied online will be made available in public domain. On scrutiny by Screening Committee the applicants through an appeal mechanism will be allowed to upload the data subsequently. Each bank has its own scheme and then make application to the portal. As regards students loan AICTE has provided 41 bank links. Students can go to these portals, chose their link, go through the entire conditions, and accept them depending on their requirement. He added that the portal has come up only on 10th January, 2010 and all the data with an interface with the bank will be provided probably in three months.

#### **Action Taken**

Factual position.

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

9.4 **Whatever changes may occur in the status of AICTE after National Council for Higher Education and Research coming into the picture the Committee opines that system**



**of approvals and facilities to the students needs to be streamlined in the interest of the technical education in its entirety. The Committee hopes that the new system of online applications and information about institutions in public domain would bring forth the much desired transparency under the new regulatory system.**

**Action Taken**

The observation of the Committee has been noted.

## CHAPTER-III

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

#### I. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

##### Recommendations/Observations

2.4 The Committee notes that of 3.78 per cent of the GDP, flowing to the Education Sector in 2008-09, the share of the State Governments and the share of the Central Government seem to be going for a change while *Chapeau Clause* of the Eleventh Plan on education, as a whole, enjoins upon the Government to give six per cent of the GDP to the education sector. The Committee is of the view that the allocation for Department is definitely lower than the vision statement of the Government.

##### Action Taken

National Policy on Education, 1986 (modified in 1992) stipulates that investment in education should be gradually increased so as to reach a level of expenditure of 6% of the National Income as early as possible. XI<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan Document also pledged to raise public spending on education to 6% of the GDP. The Plan allocation for higher education shows that there has been a phenomenal increase in the Plan allocation during XI<sup>th</sup> Plan *vis-à-vis* X<sup>th</sup> Plan. As against a total allocation of Rs.9500 crore during X<sup>th</sup> Plan, the allocation of higher education during XI<sup>th</sup> Plan has gone up to Rs.84943 crore which is an increase of 9 times. However, the existing infrastructure facilities available with the higher education institutions need to be enhanced to meet the investment targeted for the expansion of the higher education sector. Further, investment under education also depends on the cooperation from the State Governments as land and other input are required to be provided by them for setting up of new educational institutions, etc. With the several initiatives taken by Central Government in the recent past, it is expected that expenditure in the education sector will be faster and the State Governments will also come forward for investing in the education sector, as the 6% of GDP has to come from Centre as well as State Governments.

##### Comments of the Committee

The Committee made a specific observation that the allocations for the Department are lower than vision statement. Although there has been a tremendous increase in the allocation over the years however, fact remains that it is yet to attain the level of six per cent as has been declared in various Five Years Plans and policies of the Government. The Committee again reiterates that this process of gradual increase should be speeded up to ensure that the desired levels of allocations are attained at the earliest.

#### III. UTILISATION OF FUNDS

**Para 3.1** The budgetary allocation of the Department, on the other hand also needs to be appropriated in the context of utilization of funds. The Committee notes a grim picture of fund utilization in the Department so much so that plan allocation had to be reduced at the RE stage

every year and even that reduced allocation remained under-utilised. Plan allocation for Higher Education during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan indicate a poor pace of utilization as indicated below:-

(Rs. in crores)

2007-2008			2008-2009			2009-2010		
BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals upto to 31.12.2009
6479.48	3261.32	3139.26	7593.50	6800.00	6711.96	9596.00	7952.00	5500.00

A perusal of the above mentioned figures indicates that during all the first three years of Eleventh Plan, the allocation was revised downwards at RE stage and even that reduced allocation remained underutilized. The fund utilizations has particularly been utterly poor in 2009-10 as only Rs. 5500 crore could be spent up to the end of third quarter *i.e.* 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 against the Plan allocation of Rs. 9596 crore.

#### **Action Taken**

Based on the recommendations of the Site Selection Committees constituted by the Ministry for the purpose, sites for all new Central Universities, except for the Central Universities of Bihar and Kerala, have already been finalized. While the matter relating to the Central University of Kerala has been taken up at the highest level in the State Government, in view of the announcement of the Schedule of General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar and coming into effect of the Model Code of Conduct, further consideration of the matter relating to the Central University of Bihar has been kept in abeyance. Six of the State Governments have since allotted the identified lands to the respective Central Universities and four of these Universities have already started construction activities on their respective sites. The remaining Universities are also expected to start campus development during the current financial year once possession of the land is taken over. In a review meeting held with the Chairman, UGC as well as in a separate meeting with Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities, the Ministry has again emphasized upon the need to have clear timelines for infrastructure development in case of each University. The UGC is following up the matter with these Central Universities emphasizing on the need for each Central University to draw out time-bound action plan.

Pending finalization of sites, allotment of lands and development of their permanent campuses, all of these Universities, except Central University of Jammu, have started their academic activities from temporary premises.

The Statutes on establishment of Schools/Departments in respect of seven Central Universities have since been assented to by the Visitor, four of which have also been provided Visitor's nominees on the Selection Committees for appointment of teachers. The Universities are in the process of holding meetings of the Selection Committees for appointment of regular faculty.

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

**The plea of the Department for the under-utilisation of the Plan Fund allocation during the year 2009-10 is not only unrealistic but also based on wrong interpretation. Out of the total of Rs. 9600 crores, allocated as the Plan allocation to the Department during this period at BE level, only Rs. 4976 crores pertain to the Universities and higher education. As per data provided by the Department, out of Rs. 4976 crores, only Rs. 4376 crores**

have been earmarked for the UGC. And even out of this amount (Rs. 4376 crores), only a meager amount of Rs. 827 crores has been reserved for the establishment of the new Central Universities. The Committee fails to understand the reasons such as delay in the finalization of sites, allotment of lands, development of permanent campuses, etc. for the establishment of new Central Universities. Committee opines that there are many other grey areas where the Department is lagging behind in timely implementation thereof because of which the funds allocated to the Department are being grossly under-utilised. The Committee would like the Department to make an introspection in the under-utilisation of the Plan fund allocation and bring out all grey areas wherever the Department is lagging behind its projections.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

3.4 The Committee agrees that the infrastructure development for recently approved 12 Central Universities may be a time consuming affair and for that matter the achievement of financial targets would entirely depend on physical targets. Similarly, the shortfall in non Plan outlay of 2009-10 due to delay in finalization of pay and salaries on account of Sixth Pay Commission recommendation is also acceptable. The Committee, however, impresses upon the Department to strictly monitor the progress of infrastructure development for new Central Universities so that at least the Plan outlay now available for the purpose is optimally utilized. Nobody can deny the fact that functioning of any educational institution from temporary site for a prolonged time cannot be considered an ideal proposition. Our Central Universities, envisaged to be role model of higher education functioning from temporary campuses is bound to adversely affect both the quality of education as well as the performance of the students. A time-bound completion schedule should, therefore, be drawn out to ensure that infrastructure of these universities is in place without cost and time overruns.

### **Action Taken**

Based on the recommendations of the Site Selection Committees constituted by the Ministry for the purpose, sites for all new Central Universities, except for the Central Universities of Bihar and Kerala, have already been finalized. While the matter relating to the Central University of Kerala has been taken up at the highest level in the State Government, in view of the announcement of the Schedule of General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar and coming into effect of the Model Code of Conduct, further consideration of the matter relating to the Central University of Bihar has been kept in abeyance. Six of the State Governments have since allotted the identified lands to the respective Central Universities and four of these Universities have already started construction activities on their respective sites. The remaining Universities are also expected to start campus development during the current financial year once possession of the land is taken over. In a review meeting held with the Chairman, UGC as well as in a separate meeting with Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities, the Ministry has again emphasized upon the need to have clear timelines for infrastructure development in case of each University. The UGC is following up the matter with these Central Universities emphasizing on the need for each Central University to draw out time-bound action plan.

Pending finalization of sites, allotment of lands and development of their permanent campuses, all of these Universities, except Central University of Jammu, have started their academic activities from temporary premises.

The Statutes on establishment of Schools/Departments in respect of seven Central Universities have since been assented to by the Visitor, four of which have also been provided Visitor's nominees on the Selection Committees for appointment of teachers. The Universities are in the process of holding meetings of the Selection Committees for appointment of regular faculty.

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken by the Department regarding infrastructure development at the Central Universities. However, the Committee feels that still a lot needs to be done as the work in at least 3 universities viz. Bihar, Kerala and Jammu, is yet to be finalized. A strict, monitoring is required for the purpose to achieve any tangible results. It, therefore, again reiterates its earlier recommendation that a time schedule should be drawn up and timelines are strictly adhered to.

### Recommendations/Observations

3.5 The Committee observes that not only under University Education, but also under two other major components of Higher Education, i.e. Distance Learning and Technical Education, the trend of allocated funds being brought down drastically in the middle of the year and that too remaining under-utilised by the end of the year is evident. Following details are self-explanatory:-

(Rs. in crores)

Scheme	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals up to 1.12.09
Distance Learning	610.00	108.00	67.66	622.00	511.08	447.79	990.00	390.00	38.26
Technical Education	324.00	1103.20	1066.79	3205.00	285.22	2833.34	3902.00	3687.00	2557.22

Not only this, the Committee views with serious concern the low level of utilization by the end of first three quarters during 2009-10. The Committee is surprised to note that smaller schemes like Scholarships, Book Promotion also do not seem to have been functioning as envisaged. Scheme of Scholarships, very crucial for both the meritorious and poor students continues to remain almost non-functional. Funds allocated for 2007-08 under this Scheme remained unspent. Position was the same upto third quarter of 2009-10. Similarly, Scheme of Book Promotion which needs to be propagated extensively seems to be the most neglected as year after year negligible allocation under this scheme somehow remained grossly under-utilised. The Committee would like to point out that in the process of massive expansion of higher/technical education, schemes like Book Promotion and Scholarships should not be allowed to be implemented in a routine manner. Their role though smaller is equally crucial for our young students.

### Action Taken

#### Scholarship

In 2007-08, Rs.14.00 crore was earmarked for the National Merit Scholarship Scheme. The 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan started w.e.f. 2007-08. The Planning Commission did not provide funds during 2007-08 for this scheme hence the scheme was discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.2007. Thus no expenditure could be made for the scheme during that year.

In 2009-10, funds could not be utilized up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009-10 since it is only after the process of admission is complete that the State Education Boards can prepare the final eligibility list and send the same to this Department for sanction of funds. It is stated that all the

funds allocated for this scheme were ultimately utilized and scholarships were disbursed to the eligible students through the respective State Education Boards.

### **Technical Education**

The actual expenditure upto 31.3.2010 under Technical Education has gone up to Rs.3628.39 crore against the RE of Rs.3687.00 crore. The unspent fund of Rs.51 crore approximately is largely on account of non finalization of lands/sites for the proposed new IITs to be set up during the period.

### **Book Promotion**

As regards low level of utilization of funds by the end of first three quarters, the NBT take applications from the Voluntary Organizations and Publishers' Association for organizing seminars/book fairs in the different parts of the country. After receiving the applications, NBT scrutinize the applications as per guidelines and put up for approval of the Grants-in-aid Committee. The organizations take time in submitting the requisite documents. In some cases, fresh as well as old observations are conveyed and furnishing the clarifications/documents by Grantees takes time.

NBT had put up the scheme of Book Promotion on its website. To further popularize the scheme, the NBT is advertising the scheme through newspapers also.

Apart from the above, the NBT has been advised to ensure full utilization of allocated funds in a constructive manner.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Department as it made a very specific observations that smaller schemes like scholarships, Book Promotion are not functioning smoothly and that the allocated funds are either not being spent or remain under utilized. The reasons given by the Department are of routine nature and do not appear to be convincing at all. The Committee therefore desires that these schemes which are very important from the students point of view, needs special attentions because these are crucial for them. The Committee, therefore, recommends that these schemes be implemented seriously and sincerely so as to provide encouragement to our young students.**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

3.8 The Committee is surprised to find that shortfall is noticed even in the projections approved by the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Plan. Out of projected outlay of Rs. 89,943 crore, only Rs. 35,504 crore could be spent in the first three years of the Plan period. The Committee can only conclude that given the poor utilization trend, the Department would not be able to meet the shortfall between the projected outlay and the budget allocation. The Department shall have to blame itself in case there is an overall cut by the Planning Commission in the projected outlay for Twelfth Plan. Obviously the annual budgetary allocations are also likely to be affected adversely. There appears to be deficiencies in the financial management as well. The Department has got money but it has not been able to utilize the same imaginatively and skillfully. Though the Department is claiming about a number of interventions introduced for access, excellence and inclusiveness and also building a knowledge society, but the pace of expanding higher education is not commensurate to the projected outlay approved by the Planning Commission. In such a scenario, Department's vision for investing 6 per cent of GDP for the Education Sector, seems to be a distant dream. Given the level of utilization of allocated funds, the Committee is apprehensive

about the outcome of Departments' efforts for increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio from 12.4 per cent to 15 per cent by 2010-11. The Committee hopes the Department would adopt better fiscal management techniques supported by strong monitoring mechanism to ensure that the outlays are utilized optimally and the demand for higher allocation could be a justifiable preposition. The Committee recommends that the Department should undertake quarterly review of allocation and pace of expenditure as well as identifying deficiencies and shortfalls with a view to achieving the target of 15 per cent GER at the end of Eleventh Plan.

### Action Taken

It is a fact that out of the approved Plan outlay by NDC for XI<sup>th</sup> Plan of Rs.84,943 crore, Department incurred an expenditure of only Rs.17,808 crore during the last three years. Rs.35,504 crore as shown in the ATN is the total Plan and Non-Plan allocation for Department of Higher Education during first 3 years of the XI<sup>th</sup> Plan as per detailed given below:

*(All figures in Rs. crores)*

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2007-08	6483	2729	9212
2008-09	7600	3259	10859
2009-10	9600	5833	15433
2010-11	11000 (proposed)	5694 (proposed)	16694 (proposed)

It is a fact that the funds allocated on year to year basis have not been fully utilized mainly on account of spill over amount of the previous years, delay in implementation of OSC recommendations on account of legal difficulties, delay in approval of projects, etc. It may be mentioned that as a follow up of the Constitution (93<sup>rd</sup>) Amendment Act, 2005, inserting clause (5) in Article 15 of the Constitution of India, Parliament enacted the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act, 2006 (CEI Act), making special provisions for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Socially and Economically Backward Classes/ Other Backward Classes (SEBCs/OBCs) in admission to such institutions. In terms of section 6 of the Act, Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) were to give effect to reservation of seats in admissions to their academic sessions commencing on and from the calendar year 2007. However, a bunch of Writ Petitions were filed in the Apex Court, challenging the constitutional validity of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Amendment as well as the CEI Act, 2006. The Apex Court finally disposed of the petitions on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, upholding the constitutional validity of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Amendment [Article 15(5)] of the Constitution in so far as the Central Educational Institutions, established, maintained or aided by the Central Government are concerned.

As regards the issue relating to delay in implementation of projects, the same has been addressed in the meetings with the State Governments as well as CAGE and Education Ministers' Conference. Some times allotment of land and other issues concerning the State Governments, hampers the project implementation thereby non-utilising of the fund for the projects. In order to overcome the problem, Secretary (HE) is reviewing the Plan expenditure on regular basis and appropriate measures are being taken for the timely execution of the project scheme.

As regards investment of 6% of GDP in education, Centre and State Governments both are required to contribute adequately to education so as to reach expenditure of 6% of GDP on education. While Central Government is making all efforts to increase the investment in education, which can be vouched by enhanced allocation in education in XI<sup>th</sup> Plan period *vis-à-vis* X<sup>th</sup> Plan, the

percentage of investment in education by States is not commensurate with the stipulation made in the National Policy on Education of 1986 modified in 1992. It is worth mentioning that since 1999-2000, while the Central expenditure in education as a percentage of GDP has gone up from about 0.61% to over 0.91% in the year 2006-07, the expenditure on education of all States put together has gone down from about 3.58% in the year 1999-2000 to about 2.73% in the year 2006-07.

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

**Problems being faced in the implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations have been cited as a major factor for under-utilisation of allocated funds. The Committee would like to point out that legal difficulties have already been resolved by the disposal of all the petitions on 10 April, 2008. More than two years have elapsed since then. This cannot be considered a justified reason. The Committee views with great apprehension the decreasing trend being noticed in the State contribution in GDP percentage on education. Equally disturbing is very meager increase in Central share from 0.61% in 1999-2000 to 0.91% in 2006-07. Required initiatives need to be taken both at the State and Central level.**

#### **IV. TARGETS FOR ELEVENTH PLAN**

##### **Recommendations/Observations**

4.6 Closely related with the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is the issue of access to education. In spite of massive expansion in higher and technical education both in the Government and private sector in the recent years, the fact remains that even meritorious students do not get the opportunity to join course of their liking. Every year, students both talented and average students compete for admission in IITs and IIMs and other premier educational institutions. However, very few get admission in institutions of their choice. For example, during 2009, out of 3,84,977 students who sat for IIT entrance test, 3,74,942 failed to qualify. Such a trend is visible in other Entrance Tests also. Not only this, State-wise details indicate that success rate of students from N-E States like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Maghalaya and Sikkim in such exams is virtually nil. Thus, issue of access to higher education, in spite of a large number of significant initiatives taken by the Government continues to remain the major challenge. The Committee can only say that more vigorous efforts with focus on weak areas are required to be continued for quite some time. Though, the exact figures of students not able to get admissions in different universities in Delhi was not made available to the Committee, gap between demand and supply is very wide there also. The Committee would like the Department to consider this issue and devise a mechanism by which such category of aspiring students get opportunities for higher education. One straight answer to this issue could be to open more colleges and universities in the country but at the same time the Department should also focus on diversifying the curriculum to include other things that will be of help to students' growth. The focus should be on developing students' entrepreneur skills or providing vocational education to them. Committee feels that it is crucial to improve the supply side response.

##### **Action Taken**

Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GRE) by 5% by the end of the current Plan period. Several technical institutions are taking care of the higher education in the North Eastern Region. Presently, there are two NITs located at Silchar (Assam) and Agartala (Tripura). During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, there is a proposal to set up 10 New NITs out of which 6 NITs have been decided to be set up in NER at Meghalaya, Mizoram,



Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim. In addition, Government has set up 8 new IITs at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Ropar (Punjab), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), and Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) and have started academic function. Further, the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages the establishment of ten more IITs in the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Government has also approved the establishment of 07 new IIMs at Shillong (Meghalaya), Rohtak (Haryana), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Tiruchirappali (Tamil Nadu), Kashipur (Uttarakhand) and Udaipur (Rajasthan). The Societies of all new IIMs have been registered and RGIIM – Shillong has commenced first academic session from the academic year 2008-09 while IIMs at Rohtak, Ranchi and Raipur have commenced their first academic session from the current year 2010-11.

Government is also providing Central assistance to States to set up 374 Model Degree Colleges in educationally backward Districts.

In order to enhance employability by creation of facilities for technical and skill oriented courses, under the Sub-Mission of Polytechnics, this Ministry is extending financial assistance to State Governments for setting up of 300 new polytechnics in unserved/under served Districts of the Country. This is besides strengthening 500 existing polytechnics and modernizing them with the introduction of courses in latest Technology. For Skill orientation of unorganized sectors, several short term courses are offered through Community Development through Skill Building by Polytechnics.

UGC has informed that it has taken a number of steps for providing education with relevance. For example, education has been made career oriented by starting career counseling cells, centers for studies in Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Non-formal Education, Women Education, Population Education and Adult Education etc. Thus, all possible efforts are being made to develop students' entrepreneur skills and providing vocational education. A status note on Career Oriented Courses.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**From the response of the Department it may be seen that most of the schemes which have been mentioned therein are only on the paper as these are proposals to set up more national level institutions for higher education to provide the necessary access to it. The Committee feels that the issue of enhancement of GER and access to higher education directly effects the careers of the students and therefore, needs special care and attention and requires expeditious implementation. Also, the development of entrepreneurial skills and vocational education would go along with improving the employability of the students. The Committee therefore, again recommends that a better and effective mechanism may be evolved to provide smooth and easy access to higher education so as to make them more employable.**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

## **VI. HIGHER EDUCATION-QUALITY AND NEED FOR REFORMS**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.5 The Committee observes that higher education in our country is in a flux. It does not give a coherent picture because we have various institutions, quality institutions and institutions which do not have any quality at all. We have the institutions which give best of education and also

the institutions which provide substandard quality of education. With the number of institutions continue to grow, a seemingly absence of quality is felt. We have poor infrastructure in most of the universities and colleges. Our courses are irrelevant and there are very less number of quality teachers in the institutions. One of the important reasons for poor quality of education is that our libraries in the colleges and universities are not properly equipped. The Committee is of the firm view that development of work culture in our educational system is the need of time. We need to develop the talent who could infuse the quality aspect. Our institutions require a visionary management, enlightened minds of faculty and inspired students to produce quality education.

### **Action Taken**

Higher Education in India is a large and growing system with more than 500 university level institutions and over twenty two thousand colleges both publicly and privately funded catering to 12.5 million students enrolled in the formal higher education system.

It has seen huge expansion in the last few years. Government's aim is to increase the GER to 25% by the end of the 2015-16 and 30% by 2020. To achieve this, the enrolments in universities/colleges need to be substantially raised at an annual rate of 8.9% to reach 21 million by 2011-12. This requires an additional enrolment of 870,000 students in universities and 6.13 million students in colleges. While the government is making every effort to ensure increase in access to education by expansion and inclusion, ensuring improvement in quality throughout the higher education system by initiating major institutional and policy reforms has also been at the core of its efforts. Government has initiated several reforms in the higher education sector. A legislation to provide for a new regulator subsuming the existing regulatory bodies in university, technical and professional education with the main aim of overhauling the regulatory system is being finalized. Government has also introduced four Bills providing for a mandatory accreditation; prohibition and punishment of unfair practices in technical and medical education and in the university system; an independent fast-track adjudication process to adjudicate disputes in higher education and to facilitate the entry of foreign educational providers.

According to UGC, to ensure quality of higher education, it has taken a number of steps in this direction like – framing of UGC (Minimum standards of Instructions for the grant of the First Degree through formal Education Regulation) 2003, establishment of quality assessment cell in universities and colleges; regulations for deemed universities; regulations for admissions and fees in deemed universities; regulations for affiliation of colleges by the universities; (i) the UGC (Minimum Qualification required for appointment and Career Advancement of teachers in Universities and Institutions affiliated to it) (3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Regulation 2009 and (ii) the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree) Regulation, 2009.

It is expected that major institutional and policy reforms initiated by the department coupled with major academic and administrative reform measures initiated by UGC, will go a long way in developing a work culture in our educational system.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee welcomes the introduction of four major Bills dealing with vital areas of higher education. The Committee also takes note of formulation of regulations meant for quality control of higher education by UGC. While all these initiatives can be considered a step in the right direction, the Department will have to play a pro-active role in co-ordination with State authorities so as to ensure the effective implementation of all these measures.**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.8 The Committee appreciates the initiatives the Department has taken for the much awaited reforms in the field of higher education. While examining the Demands for Grants of the Department of Higher Education, the Committee also took opportunity to deliberate on the impending educational reforms particularly with regard to the opening and recognition of different sets of universities. In this context, the existing provisions of UGC Act and the Regulations came under close scanner of the Committee. The Committee has noticed that our university education is confronted with lot of practical difficulties in implementation of those provisions. Monitoring of fees and quality of education in private universities being not fully under control of the Government, both students as well as parents are facing a lot of problems. The issue of indiscriminate recognition of institutions as Deemed to be Universities has become quite controversial and the Apex Court is seized of the matter. Recently one more controversy has generated in the conversion of Central Universities into State Universities and the glaring example is Delhi Technical University, formerly known as Delhi College of Engineering (DCE). The students of this University are up in arms against the granting of State University status to DCE which before such conversion was part of Delhi University *i.e.* a Central University. The matter is now *sub-judice*. There are other sets of university education in the name of foreign universities and also fake universities which have opened campuses across the country. In a nutshell, a host of teething problems have cropped up due to complexities of provisions under UGC Act and Regulations. Needless to mention these infirmities have occurred because the existing policy for opening universities is not clearly laid down and the regulations are open to different interpretations. The Committee hopes that the Department will take into consideration all these issues and formulate a comprehensive policy/regulation while finalising the proposed legislation for National Commission for Higher Education and Research.

### **Action Taken**

It may be submitted that the matter concerning the Delhi College of Engineering (DCE) has since been decided by the High Court of Delhi upholding its conversion through state legislation as Delhi Technical University.

The proposal for the establishment of the NCHER has its origin in the Address of the President to Parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 wherein the Government declared its intent to establish an overarching body in higher education to reform the current regulatory structure based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Prof. Yash Pal Committee. The Government has constituted a Task Force to aid and assist it in the establishment of a Commission for Higher Education and Research. The Task Force has prepared a draft legislation which was placed in the public domain for wider consultations. The Task Force has visited various locations in the country to interact and consult prominent academics, educational administrators, Vice Chancellors, and Education Secretaries of State Governments for suggestions on the draft proposal. The Task Force has revisited the draft legislation on the basis of the suggestions received and concerns expressed during the interactions. Since the Task Force has held such wider consultations, it is expected that the draft legislation will suitably include comprehensive policy and regulations to overcome the concerns expressed by the committee. It is expected to submit a final proposal to the Government shortly. On receipt of the proposal, the Government would consider the introduction of an appropriate legislation for the purpose, as suggested by the hon'ble Committee.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee notes with disappointment the reply of the Department as it does not throw any reflection on various issues highlighted by it like monitoring of fees, quality of**

**education in private universities, problems faced by students and parents, indiscriminate recognition of deemed to be universities, fake universities to name few. These problems areas may be dealt with when NCHER is established but till then these issues cannot be sidestepped and we cannot close our eyes to them. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Department must take corrective action to not only protect the student community from harassment but also ensure that these unwanted unfair practices especially in the private sector run institutions must be handled with strong hands.**

## **VIII. VACANCIES IN FACULTIES OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

8.9 The Committee observes that UGC was advised by the Department to notify qualifications for Assistant Professor at the entry level in the first instance, so that Universities and colleges which were in the process of recruiting fresh talent into teaching in these positions could do so without any delay. However, the UGC issued a letter to all universities permitting them to go ahead with the recruitment and promotion of teachers under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) as per UGC Regulations of 2000 in the interim till the finalization of Regulations on service conditions for teachers based on the recommendations of the Pay Review Committee. The Committee was given to understand that the two letters appeared to have crossed each other. The latest position was that the Department was in consultation with UGC to resolve the matter. **The Committee is not happy with this state of affairs. Both the UGC and the Department are mandated to work in coordination so that all the Central Universities continue to function smoothly.**

### **Action Taken**

The Department and UGC work in tandem to ensure smooth functioning of Central Universities. The draft UGC Regulations on “Minimum Qualifications for Appointment for Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education in 2010” have since been approved by the Government with slight modifications, keeping in view the representations against certain provisions of the Regulations which it had received from Federation of Central University Teachers Association (FEDCUTA).

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee while noting the reply of the Department regarding in tandem working with the UGC still feels that there is something important lacking between the Department and the UGC. The Committee however, hopes that in future there would be complete harmony between the two for smooth functioning and generation of synergy to overcome various problems.**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

8.10 The Committee notes that an operation of Faculty Recharge is being launched, under which 1000 faculty positions are being created and to be filled at national level through global advertisement. Despite seeking details in that regard, the feedback was not received from the Department. The Committee would like to know the status of the scheme.

### **Action Taken**

According to UGC, for implementation of this scheme the MoU has been signed between UGC & JNU as per the recommendation of the M.M. Sharma Empowered Committee. UGC has

sanctioned a sum of Rs.25.00 lacs for establishment of UGC cell in JNU. The UGC would be providing financial assistance to JNU to create the UGC facility at JNU for the programme and for its maintenance. UGC has informed that draft advertisement for inviting applications from outstanding highly motivated individuals for positions of Assistant Professors, Associate Professor and Professor has been deliberated in the Empowered Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2010. The same may be finalised in the meeting of the Empowered Committee so that it may be Advertised in leading Journals/Newspapers. The proposed budget estimate for “Operation Faculty Recharge” the year 2010-2011 is Rs.30.00 crores.

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

**The Committee appreciates the efforts made in implementing the faculty Recharge Scheme but feels that it is still lying at a nascent stage only. It appears that only half backed reply has been giving. The Committee, therefore, desires that the scheme may be implemented more speedily and its complete and up-to-dated status may be furnished at the earliest.**

### **XI. PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

**Para 11.3** The Committee is aware about the role of private investment in the field of higher education given the existing constraints, the country is confronted with so far as needs of higher education are concerned. However, the experience of private universities has been a mixed one. We have got some world class universities set up in private sector. In contrast, there are private institutions operating at the cost of quality education. In either case these institutions are blamed for exorbitant fees being charged from students. **The quality of education in some cases has also been found questionable. There being no firm regulation the students have been the victims and the education the casualty. In such a scenario, less than half of the private universities being inspected by UGC so far cannot be considered a very satisfactory situation. Secondly, it is also not known whether serious shortcomings were noticed in the functioning of the inspected private universities. Details of follow-up action are also not known. The Committee would appreciate if information about private universities found wanting is given wide publicity through print and electronic media. The Committee would like to have a status note in this regard along with the private universities to be inspected and by when.**

#### **Action Taken**

UGC has informed that as on 21.05.2010 there are 60 Private Universities established by the State Legislatures. Out of the 60 Universities 29 have been inspected so far on the basis of UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulation, 2003.

The Commission, as part of the normal process of inspection, uploads on its website the information regarding names of the inspected Universities and the report of the Expert Committee. The Commission has assured that, as desired by the Committee, it would draw up a time bound plan of inspection of the remaining private universities.

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

**The Committee is constraint to note that no corrective steps have been taken by the Department to control whims of the Private Universities which are functioning as independent entities without adhering the rules and regulations of the UGC (Establishment**

of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulation, 2003. As per the data made available by the Department, out of 60 Private Universities, only 29 Private Universities have been inspected by the UGC under its Act as on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. The Committee notes that it is matter of serious concern to check functioning, including quality of education, faculty position, fee structure, syllabus standard, etc., of these Universities. The Committee opines that more and more stringent regulations should be brought in by the Department so as control disorder prevailing in these universities.

## **XII. STATUS OF WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

12.3 The women study centres have played a prominent role in achieving the objective of increasing women's enrolment in higher education. The present number of 131 centres, in the opinion of the Committee, is not commensurate to the number of universities which is at present 504. That means only 22 per cent universities have women study centres while remaining 78 per cent are yet to set up these centres. The Committee would like the Department to devise a time bound action plan to cover all the universities and even expand the scheme to all institutions of technical education in view of increasing enrolment of women in these institutions as well.

### **Action Taken**

As per information provided by UGC, prior to Eleventh Plan, there were 67 Women Study Centres established in various Universities/Colleges. During Eleventh Plan, the proposals for establishment of Women's Studies Centres were invited by UGC from all the Universities and colleges covered under Section 2(f) & 12 (B) of UGC Act 1956. Total 185 proposals were received from various Universities and Colleges for establishment of Women Study Centres out of which 65 proposals were approved by the Standing Committee appointed by it. Now there are 132 Women's Study Centres (72 in Universities and 60 in Colleges). 29 Universities/Colleges were requested by UGC to send revised proposals as per Eleventh Plan guidelines of the scheme and keeping in view the recommendations of the Standing Committee. At present, 26 proposals are pending with the Standing Committee. The same, alongwith proposals received thereafter, will be considered by the Standing Committee.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**It is matter of serious concern that out of 185 proposals received from various Universities and Colleges for establishment of Women Study Centres, only 65 proposals were approved by the Standing Committee established by the Department. It seems that the norms framed by the Department for the establishment of the Women Study Centres are strict. The Committee recommends that the Department should simplify these norms and a drive should be launched so as to cover more and more States for this purpose, which, in turn, would promote the higher studies amongst women.**

### **(iii) Construction of Women Hostels for Colleges**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

12.8 The Committee notes that out of 2208 colleges assisted for women hostels during the Eleventh Plan, maximum number of such hostels getting grant is in Maharashtra (607), Karnataka (238), Andhra Pradesh (207), Tamil Nadu (174), Assam (164) and U.P. (107). **The Committee would like to be apprised about the break-up of women hostels set up in urban/rural areas**

and metro/non-metro city-wise. The Committee would also appreciate if an assessment is made about the functioning of these women hostels so as to have an idea about the problem areas and corrective measures required therefore.

#### Action Taken

The desired information as received from UGC is tabulated below:

(Rupees in lakhs)

State	Urban Areas			Rural areas		
	No. of colleges	Amount allocated	Amount paid	No. of colleges	Amount allocated	Amount paid
Andhra Pradesh	<b>98</b>	3258.80	<b>2248.13</b>	<b>51</b>	1569.04	<b>1185.97</b>
Arunachal Pradesh	<b>01</b>	45.00	<b>30.00</b>	<b>01</b>	25.00	<b>22.50</b>
Assam	<b>58</b>	2380.50	<b>1341.00</b>	<b>71</b>	3018.55	<b>1515.31</b>
Bihar	<b>50</b>	3283.90	<b>1541.95</b>	<b>59</b>	3364.11	<b>1619.55</b>
Chhattisgarh	<b>11</b>	842.38	<b>446.19</b>	<b>09</b>	479.00	<b>2.19</b>
Jharkhand	<b>10</b>	798.29	<b>399.14</b>	<b>06</b>	455.22	<b>227.61</b>
Karnataka	<b>108</b>	47.56	<b>29.5</b>	<b>130</b>	65.54	<b>39.73</b>
Kerala	<b>60</b>	36.63	<b>17.24</b>	<b>87</b>	42.37	<b>27.78</b>
Madhya Pradesh	<b>51</b>	3209.73	<b>1657.61</b>	<b>22</b>	1207.60	<b>6.66</b>
Maharashtra	<b>468</b>	21266.86	<b>10607.79</b>	<b>139</b>	9864.05	<b>4239.09</b>
Manipur	<b>13</b>	382.40	<b>291.25</b>	<b>10</b>	286.35	<b>153.75</b>
Meghalaya	<b>08</b>	470.22	<b>275.00</b>	<b>06</b>	354.00	<b>178.10</b>
Mizoram	<b>09</b>	375.00	<b>237.00</b>	<b>08</b>	336.92	<b>160.27</b>
Nagaland	<b>05</b>	170.00	<b>120.75</b>	<b>03</b>	80.00	<b>62.50</b>
Orissa	<b>53</b>	3204.22	<b>1533.36</b>	<b>95</b>	5002.76	<b>2428.46</b>
Rajasthan	<b>34</b>	2161.11	<b>1189.30</b>	<b>01</b>	40.00	<b>0.20</b>
Tamil Nadu	<b>46</b>	1252.59	<b>834.29</b>	<b>71</b>	2232.80	<b>1613.43</b>
Tripura	<b>02</b>	60.00	<b>30.50</b>	<b>00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
West Bengal	<b>55</b>	4133.93	<b>1990.77</b>	<b>43</b>	2686.33	<b>1259.93</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>47379.12</b>	<b>24820.77</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>31109.64</b>	<b>14743.03</b>

UGC has informed that as desired by the Committee it would take appropriate steps for assessment of the scheme so that the problem areas are known and corrective measures required can be taken.

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee had been given to understand that under this Scheme, preference is given for the construction of Women Hostels for colleges located in rural areas followed by those located in urban areas and lastly in metro cities. State-wise details furnished by the Department clearly indicate that Women Hostels set up in urban areas is higher than those set up in rural areas. Not only this, the Committee is surprised to note that gap between urban and rural areas Women Hostels is very wide in respect of some States, *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh (Urban-9 and Rural-51), Madhya Pradesh (Urban-51 and Rural-22), Maharashtra (Urban-468 and Rural-139) and Rajasthan (Urban-34 and Rural-1). The Committee views with serious concern non-adherence to the prescribed norms. The Committee is also constrained to observe that funds released to various States are less than half of total allocated funds position being very unsatisfactory in respect of Women Hostels located in rural areas. The Committee strongly feels that this scheme is yet to take off in the real sense. The Committee, accordingly, reiterates that an assessment about the status of Women Hostels for colleges needs to be made without any further delay, followed by corrective measures.

### Recommendations/Observations

12.11 The Committee appreciates the initiatives with regard to scholarship for single girl child. However, uneven spread of this scheme needs to be looked into. A fixed number of scholarships per State on the pattern of Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Student can be included. The scheme also needs more publicity to educate the masses particularly in our rural and remote areas about the benefits of the scheme so that they get motivated to send girl child for higher education. The Committee hopes that Department would adopt a focused approach towards this scheme to ensure equal opportunity to women and increasing the overall GER in higher education.

### Action Taken

UGC has informed that communication is being sent to all the Universities and PG colleges to publicize the scheme of Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child so that people get motivated to send girl child for higher education. Committee's suggestion that fixed number of scholarships per State on the pattern of Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Student has been noted and UGC will take appropriate measures to modify the scheme so that due representation to all the States is ensured.

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee is happy to note that some initiatives have been taken to give publicity to the Scheme of Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl child. The Committee would appreciate if the exercise of modifying the scheme so as to have fixed number of scholarships per State is expedited.

### (v) POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR WOMEN

#### Recommendations/Observations

12.12 This scheme is meant for the unemployed women candidates holding Ph.D Degree in their respective subject area. The number of slots available under the scheme is 100 per year. The tenure of the award is five years @ Rs. 6000 per month and Rs. 8000 per month. The Committee notes that an amount of Rs. 9.98 lakhs has been released during 2009-10 upto 31-12-2009.



**Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

**Recommendations/Observations**

12.13 On a specific query the Committee was informed that the applications for 2008-09 have been invited by the UGC and the meeting of the Screening Committee for short listing of applications was fixed for 5-7 April, 2010. **The Committee fails to understand the reasons for undue delay in the award of fellowships. Action needs to be taken on an urgent basis so that the selection process does not become a protracted exercise. The Committee would like to have a status report along with the details of monitoring mechanism, if any, for the scheme.**

**Action Taken**

UGC has informed that, under the scheme, application for the year 2008-09 were called for during the months of September-October 2009 and the Expert Committee to screen the applications and shortlist the candidates was constituted in January, 2010. The first meeting of the Expert Committee was held on 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 to screen the applications and short-list the candidates for award of the fellowships. About 1500 applications were received out of which about half of the applications were scrutinized during the first meeting. Since the remaining applications were largely from language and science stream, and keeping in view the volume of work, the Committee had proposed that there should be two more members one each to scrutinize the applications of the language and the other for the science stream to complete the task in hand.

Accordingly, two more experts were nominated by the Chairman, UGC during May, 2010 and the second meeting of the Expert Committee was fixed on 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 to screen the remaining applications. Screening will be followed up by inter-face meeting with short-listed candidates.

UGC has been suggested to device appropriate monitoring mechanism to cut short the delay in the award of fellowship.

**Comments of the Committee**

**Feedback detailing the exercise of selection of candidates for award of Post Doctoral Fellowships for women for the year 2008-09 confirms Committee's apprehensions about undue delay taking place under the Scheme. The very fact that applications for 2008-09 were invited as late as in September-October, 2009 and by June, 2010 Screening Process of applications remained to be over. The Committee has its doubt about the final outcome of this process. The Very fact that about 1500 applications were received indicates that adequate number of beneficiaries is there. The Committee reiterates that such well-intended schemes are mandated for the implementation in the real sense.**

**XIII. INCLUSIVENESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION****Recommendations/Observations**

13.1 The Committee is happy to note that UGC is implementing a number of schemes as listed below keeping in view the needs and constraints of students belonging to disadvantaged social groups:

- *Establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells for SC/ST/OBCs/Minorities.*
- *Establishment of Residential Coaching Academy for SC/ST/Minorities and Women in Universities and Colleges.*
- *Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST.*
- *Post Graduate Scholarships for SC/ST students in professional courses.*
- *Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST*

### **Action Taken**

No comment to offer as the statement is based on facts.

### **Recommendations/Observations**

13.2 The Committee has noted that the special component plan allocation for these disadvantaged social groups has decreased from 16.2 per cent in 2009-10 to 13.2 per cent 2010-11. In terms of amount Rs. 330 crores was denied to the SCP. Similarly the allocation for TSP comes out to only 4.5 per cent against 8.1 per cent last year which means an amount of Rs. 392 crores has been denied to the TSP. Given this declining trend of allocation the Committee is of the opinion that the objectives of inclusive education would remain elusive. No replies to the query of Committee seeking details of Equal Opportunity Cells and the monitoring mechanism with regard thereto was received from the Department. The Department has also preferred to remain silent on the status of Residential Coaching Academies and the details about post doctoral fellowship given to SC, ST. The Committee, therefore, feels constrained to make any recommendations on these two important interventions in the absence of all these details. It would like the Department to furnish the requisite information within one month of the presentation of this Report. The Committee also feels that wide publicity at regular intervals through print and electronic media and also at university/college level needs to be given to such schemes. Only then the targeted beneficiaries would be covered optimally.

### **Action Taken**

The objective of setting up Equal opportunity Cells (EOCs) was to put emphasis on learning and creating space for the deprived groups to bring them to the mainstream. The cells are expected to run specific schemes of coaching for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC (Non creamy layer) and Minorities in order to enhance their employability. One time grant of Rs.2.00 lakhs for establishing office of Equal Opportunity Cell is provided by UGC to Central Universities, State Universities and Institutions Deemed to be Universities.

According to the information provided by UGC, it has provided assistance for establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells to 22 Central Universities, 12 Institutions Deemed to be Universities and 89 State Universities. According to UGC funds for establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells are provided as component of the Merged Schemes of UGC for which a composite assessment is carried out at the conclusion of the plan period.

UGC has assisted 118 Universities including 23 Central Universities, 12 Institutions Deemed to be Universities and 83 State Universities, under the coaching schemes for disadvantaged sections of society. UGC has provided grants to the extent of Rs.46.31 crore to 4 Universities (3 Central and 1 Deemed University) for establishment of residential coaching academies for students from the minority community in FY 2009-10 viz., Aligarh Muslim University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University and Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi .

The onus for implementation of the Schemes, including adequate local publicity to attract eligible students, is cast by UGC upon the concerned university. No assessment of outcomes of the Coaching Schemes has yet been conducted by UGC.

As regards the Post-Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates, during the XI Plan, UGC has awarded 100 Fellowships, 91 Fellowships and 100 Fellowships in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. UGC has informed that the selection of fellowship awardees will be finalized by the commission shortly for the year 2009-10.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**Details furnished about the Status of Residential Coaching Academics in Aligarh Muslim University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University and Jamia Hamdard are not very encouraging. Not only there are very visible gaps in funds sanctioned and released, hostel facilities have also not been made available so far. Although few students have been enrolled under the Scheme by the four universities, in the absence of any assessment, it is not possible to have an idea about the exact status of this scheme. The Committee strongly feels that centre's role cannot remain restricted to formulation of a scheme and provision of funds therefore. The Department/UGC has to play a pro-active role in co-ordination with the implementing agencies.**

## **XV. EDUCATIONAL LOAN INTEREST SUBSIDY**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

15.3 While the Committee appreciates the noble objectives behind the scheme, it is of the opinion that the cut off point of Rs. 4.5 lakh parental income is too restrictive and would benefit very few families given the poor income level of majority of our countrymen. Higher education being costlier is getting beyond the reach of middle class leave alone the poor masses of the country. Therefore, the ceiling of Rs. 4.5 lakh per annum needs to be raised appropriately in view of increasing financial burden due to general inflationary trend. The Committee would like the Department to explore the feasibility of raising the parental income ceiling to Rs. 10 lakh per annum considering the increased cost and fee structure in these institutions so that more and more students get benefit of the scheme.

### **Action Taken**

It is submitted that under the Scheme of interest subsidy on Educational Loan, the cut-off point in respect of income has been presently kept at Rs.4.5 lakh for the economically weaker sections, (for example, as in the case of non-creamy layer of OBC population) and is subject to revisions from time to time.

The Ministry shares the concern expressed by the Hon'ble Committee. However, with a view to enable more students to pursue higher education, a proposal is under consideration for setting up a National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC).

Under this proposal, the NEFC will, among other things, grant loans and advances to any scheduled public sector bank or such other financial institutions approved by the corporation for refinancing of educational loans to students. The proposed NEFC will also set up an endowment and corpus management fund of higher educational institutions which can manage the endowment funds of the universities and higher educational institutions and provide a higher return than bank deposits. The proposal for National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) is with the Planning Commission for its advice.

**Comments of the Committee**

As pointed out by the Committee earlier, higher education being costlier is getting beyond the reach of middle class, leave alone the poor masses of the country and the ceiling of Rs. 4.5 lakh parental income per annum needs to be raised appropriately in view of increasing financial burden due to general inflationary trend. The proposal of the Department for setting up a National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) for refinancing of educational loans to students would not help in meeting the financial requirements of the students. Even if it is implemented, student should be given soft loans on subsidy basis. The Committee, therefore, recommends that those students who has been selected by scheduled public sector banks which are covered under National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) should be directed to provide soft loan to the students who desire to pursue the higher studies and that the process should be speedily computed.

CHAPTER-IV

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

- NIL -

## OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE — AT A GLANCE

### II. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

The Committee made a specific observation that the allocations for the Department are lower than vision statement. Although there has been a tremendous increase in the allocation over the years however, fact remains that it is yet to attain the level of six percent as has been declared in various five year plans and policies of the Government. The Committee again reiterates that this process of gradual increase should be speeded up to ensure that the desired levels of allocations are attained at the earliest. (Para 2.4)

### III. UTILISATION OF FUNDS

The plea of the Department for the under-utilisation of the Plan Fund allocation during the year 2009-10 is not only unrealistic but also based on wrong interpretation. Out of the total of Rs. 9600 crores, allocated as the Plan allocation to the Department during this period at BE level, only Rs. 4976 crores pertain to the universities and higher education. As per data provided by the Department, out of Rs. 4976 crores, only Rs. 4376 crores have been earmarked for the UGC. And even out of this amount (Rs. 4376 crores), only a meager amount of 827 crores has been reserved for the establishment of the new central universities. The Committee fails to understand the reasons such as delay in the finalization of sites, allotment of lands, development of permanent campuses, etc. for the establishment of new central universities. Committee opines that there are many other grey areas where the Department is lagging behind in timely implementation thereof because of which the funds allocated to the Department are being grossly under-utilised. The Committee would like the Department to make an introspection in the under-utilisation of the plan fund allocation and bring out all grey areas wherever the Department is lagging behind its projections. (Para 3.1)

The Committee appreciates the initiatives taken by the Department regarding infrastructure development at the central universities. However, the Committee feels that still a lot needs to be done as the work in at least 3 universities *viz.* Bihar, Kerala and Jammu, is yet to be finalized. A strict, monitoring is required for the purpose to achieve any tangible results. It, therefore, again reiterates its earlier recommendation that a time schedule should be drawn up and timelines are strictly adhered to. (Para 3.4)

The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Department as it made a very specific observations that smaller schemes like scholarships, Book Promotion are not functioning smoothly and that the allocated funds are either not being spent or remain under utilized. The reasons given by the Department are of routine nature and do not appear to be convincing at all. The Committee therefore desire that these schemes which are very important from the students point of view, needs special attentions because these are crucial for them. The Committee, therefore, recommends that these schemes be implemented seriously and sincerely so as to provide encouragement to our young students. (Para 3.5)

Problems being faced in the implementation of Oversight Committee recommendations have been cited as a major factor for under-utilisation of allocated funds.

The Committee would like to point out that legal difficulties have already been resolved by the disposal of all the petitions on 10 April, 2008. More than two years have elapsed since then. This cannot be considered a justified reason. The Committee views with great apprehension the decreasing trend being noticed in the State contribution in GDP percentage on education. Equally disturbing is very meager increase in Central share from 0.61% in 1999-2000 to 0.91% in 2006-07. Required initiatives need to be taken both at the State and Central level. (Para 3.8)

#### IV. TARGETS FOR ELEVENTH PLAN

From the response of the Department it may be seen that most of the schemes which have been mentioned therein are only on the paper as these are proposals to set up more national level institutions for higher education to provide the necessary access to it. The Committee feels that the issue of enhancement of GER and access to higher education directly effects the careers of the students and therefore, needs special care and attention and requires expeditious implementation. Also the development of entrepreneurial skills and vocational education would go along with improving the employability of the students. The Committee therefore, again recommends that a better and effective mechanism may be evolved to provide smooth and easy access to higher education so as to make them more employable. (Para 4.6)

#### VI. HIGHER EDUCATION-QUALITY AND NEED FOR REFORMS

The Committee welcomes the introduction of four major Bills dealing with vital areas of higher education. The Committee also takes note of formulation of regulations meant for quality control of higher education by UGC. While all these initiatives can be considered a step in the right direction, the Department will have to play a pro-active role in co-ordination with State authorities so as to ensure the effective implementation of all these measures. (Para 6.5)

The Committee notes with disappointment the reply of the Department as it does not throw any reflection on various issues highlighted by it like monitoring of fees, quality of education in private universities, problems faced by students and parents, indiscriminate recognition of deemed to be universities, fake universities to name few. These problems areas may be dealt with when NCHER is established but till then these issues cannot be sidestepped and we cannot close our eyes to them. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Department must take corrective action to not only protect the student community from harassment but also ensure that these unwanted unfair practices especially in the private sector run institutions must be handled with strong hands. (Para 6.8)

#### VIII. VACANCIES IN FACULTIES OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

The Committee while noting the reply of the Department regarding in tandem working with the UGC still feels that there is something important lacking between the Department and the UGC. The Committee however, hopes that in future there would be complete harmony between the two for smooth functioning and generation of synergy to overcome various problems. (Para 8.9)

The Committee appreciates the efforts made in implementing the faculty Recharge Scheme but feels that it is still lying at a nascent stage only. It appears that only half backed reply has been giving. The Committee, therefore, desires that the scheme may be implemented more speedily and its complete and up-to-dated status may be furnished at the earliest. (Para 8.10)

## XI. PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY

The Committee is constrained to note that no corrective steps have been taken by the Department to control whims of the Private Universities which are functioning as independent entities without adhering the rules and regulations of the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulation, 2003. As per the data made available by the Department, out of 60 Private Universities, only 29 Private Universities have been inspected by the UGC under its Act as on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. The Committee notes that it is matter of serious concern to check functioning, including quality of education, faculty position, fee structure, syllabus standard, etc., of these Universities. The Committee opines that more and more stringent regulations should be brought in by the Department so as control disorder prevailing in these universities. (Para 11.3)

## XII. STATUS OF WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION

It is matter of serious concern that out of 185 proposals received from various Universities and Colleges for establishment of Women Study Centres, only 65 proposals were approved by the Standing Committee established by the Department. It seems that the norms framed by the Department for the establishment of the Women Study Centres are strict. The Committee recommends that the Department should simplify these norms and a drive should be launched so as to cover more and more States for this purpose, which, in turn, would promote the higher studies amongst women. (Para 12.3)

### (iii) Construction of Women Hostels for Colleges

The Committee had been given to understand that under this Scheme, preference is given for the construction of Women Hostels for colleges located in rural areas followed by those located in urban areas and lastly in metro cities. State-wise details furnished by the Department clearly indicate that Women Hostels set up in urban areas is higher than those set up in rural areas. Not only this, the Committee is surprised to note that gap between urban and rural areas Women Hostels is very wide in respect of some States, *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh (Urban-9 and Rural-51), Madhya Pradesh (Urban-51 and Rural-22), Maharashtra (Urban-468 and Rural-139) and Rajasthan (Urban-34 and Rural-1). The Committee views with serious concern non-adherence to the prescribed norms. The Committee is also constrained to observe that funds released to various States are less than half of total allocated funds position being very unsatisfactory in respect of Women Hostels located in rural areas. The Committee strongly feels that this scheme is yet to take off in the real sense. The Committee, accordingly, reiterates that an assessment about the status of Women Hostels for colleges needs to be made without any further delay, followed by corrective measures. (Para 12.8)

The Committee is happy to note that some initiatives have been taken to give publicity to the Scheme of Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl child. The Committee would appreciate if the exercise of modifying the scheme so as to have fixed number of scholarships per State is expedited. (Para 12.11)

### (v) POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR WOMEN

Feedback detailing the exercise of selection of candidates for award of Post Doctoral Fellowships for women for the year 2008-09 confirms Committee's apprehensions about undue delay taking place under the Scheme. The very fact that applications for 2008-09 were invited as late as in September-October, 2009 and by June, 2010 Screening



Process of applications remained to be over. The Committee has its doubt about the final outcome of this process. The Very fact that about 1500 applications were received indicates that adequate number of beneficiaries is there. The Committee reiterates that such well-intended schemes are mandated for the implementation in the real sense.

(Paras 12.12 and 12.13)

### **XIII. INCLUSIVENESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Details furnished about the Status of Residential Coaching Academics in Aligarh Muslim University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University and Jamia Hamdard are not very encouraging. Not only there are very visible gaps in funds sanctioned and released, hostel facilities have also not been made available so far. Although few students have been enrolled under the Scheme by the four universities, in the absence of any assessment, it is not possible to have an idea about the exact status of this scheme. The Committee strongly feels that centre's role cannot remain restricted to formulation of a scheme and provision of funds therefore. The Department/UGC has to play a pro-active role in co-ordination with the implementing agencies. (Paras 13.1 and 13.2)

### **XV. EDUCATIONAL LOAN INTEREST SUBSIDY**

As pointed out by the Committee earlier, higher education being costlier is getting beyond the reach of middle class, leave alone the poor masses of the country and the ceiling of Rs. 4.5 lakh parental income per annum needs to be raised appropriately in view of increasing financial burden due to general inflationary trend. The proposal of the Department for setting up a National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) for refinancing of educational loans to students would not help in meeting the financial requirements of the students. Even if it is implemented, student should be given soft loans on subsidy basis. The Committee, therefore, recommends that those students who has been selected by scheduled public sector banks which are covered under National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) should be directed to provide soft loan to the students who desire to pursue the higher studies and that the process should be speedily computed. (Para 15.3)



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# **MINUTES**

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XII  
TWELVETH-MEETING

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 11.00 A.M. on Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 in Committee Room. 'A', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**RAJYA SABHA**

1. Shri Oscar Fernandes – *Chairman*
2. Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai
3. Dr. K. Keshava Rao
4. Shri Prakash Javadekar

**LOK SABHA**

5. Shri P.K Biju
6. Shri Jeetendrasingh Bundela
7. Shri Suresh Chanabasappa Angadi
8. Shrimati J. Helen Davidson
9. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
10. Shri P.C Gaddigoudar
11. Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav
12. Shri P. Kumar
13. Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar
14. Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad
15. Shri Ashok Tanwar
16. Shri Sheesh Ram Ola
17. Shri Joseph Toppo
18. Shri Vinay Kumar Pandey 'Vinnu'
19. Shri P. Vishwanathan
20. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi

**SECRETARIAT**

Shrimati Vandana Garg, *Additional Secretary*

Shri N.S. Walia, *Director*

Shri Arun Sharma, *Joint Director*

Shri Sanjay Singh, *Assistant Director*

Shrimati Harshita Shankar, *Committee Officer*

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of four Action Taken Reports on 219<sup>th</sup>, 220<sup>th</sup>, 221<sup>st</sup> and 222<sup>nd</sup> Reports of the Committee on Demands for Grants 2010-11 of the Departments/Ministries under the purview of the Committee and also the Report on the Architects (Amendment) Bill, 2010.

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6. The Committee then adjourned at 12.05 P.M.







