

REPORT NO.

288



**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**  
**RAJYA SABHA**

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHTH REPORT**

**Demands for Grants 2017-18 (Demand No. 58) of the  
Department of Higher Education  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development)**

*(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017)*

*(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017)*



**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi**  
**March, 2017/Phalguna, 1938 (Saka)**

Hindi version of this publication is also available

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\*Appended on printing stage

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**  
*(Constituted w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016)*

1. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya — *Chairman*

**RAJYA SABHA**

2. Prof. Jogen Chowdhury  
3. Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda  
4. Shri Anubhav Mohanty  
5. Shri Pratap Singh Bajwa  
6. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad  
7. Shri Basawaraj Patil  
8. Shri Sharad Pawar  
9. Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa  
10. Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe

**LOK SABHA**

11. Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat  
12. Shri Bijoy Chandra Barman  
13. Shri Nihal Chand  
14. Shrimati Bhawana Gawali Patil  
15. Shrimati Kothapalli Geetha  
16. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde  
17. Prof. Chintamani Malviya  
18. Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra  
19. Shri Chand Nath  
20. Shri Hari Om Pandey  
21. Dr. Bhagirath Prasad  
22. Shri N.K. Premachandran  
23. Shri K.N. Ramachandran  
24. Shri Mullappaly Ramachandran  
25. Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati  
26. Shri M.I. Shanavas  
27. Dr. Nepal Singh  
28. Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh  
29. Shrimati Neelam Sonkar  
30. Shri P.R. Sundaram  
31. Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary

Shri Mahesh Tiwari, Director

Shri Vinay Shankar Singh, Joint Director

Smt. Himanshi Arya, Assistant Director

Shri R.K. Mecolt Singh, Assistant Director

Shri K. Sudhir Kumar, Research Officer

## INTRODUCTION

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 Eighty eighth Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (Demand No. 58) of the Department of Higher Education for the year 2017-18.

2. The Committee considered the various documents and relevant papers received from the Department of Higher Education and also heard the Secretary and other Officials of that Department on the said Demands for Grants in its meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

4. For the facility of reference & convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI  
March 21-, 2017  
Phalguna 30 1938 (Saka)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA  
Chairman  
Department-related Parliamentary  
Standing Committee on Human Resource Development

## ACRONYMS

AICTE :	All India Council for Technical Education
CBES:	Choice Based Credit System
CEC:	Consortium of Educational Communications
EOC:	Equal Opportunity Cells
GER:	Gross Enrolment Ratio
ICT:	Information and Communication Technology
GIAN:	Global Initiative of Academic networks
HEFA:	Higher Education Financing Agency
IIT:	Indian Institute of Information Technology
IIM :	Indian Institute of Management
IISER:	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research
IIPRS:	Indian Institute of Intellectual Property Rights Studies
IIT:	Indian Institute of Technology
IMPRINT:	Impacting Research Innovation and Technology
MOOCS:	Massive Online Open Courses
NIRF:	National Institutional Ranking Framework
NIT:	National Institute of Technology
NMEICT:	National Mission On Education Through ICT
NQRI:	National Quality Renaissance Initiative
NSQF:	National Skill Qualification Frameworks
PMMMNT:	Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching
PPP:	Public Private Partnership
RUSA:	Rashtriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
SWAYAM:	Study Webs Of Active-Learning For Young Aspiring Minds
UAY:	Ucchatar Avishkar Yojana
UBA:	Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
UGC:	University Grants Commission

## REPORT

### I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The mission of the Department of Higher Education is to provide greater opportunities of access to higher education with equity to all the eligible persons and in particular to the vulnerable sections, improve and expand education in all sectors. The Department's role also includes the policy formulation, implementation, knowledge management, research and innovation, co-ordination with stakeholders and training and capacity building in higher education sector.

1.2 The Department's function also include expanding access by supporting existing institutions, establishing new institutions, skill development so as to reap the benefits of demographic advantage of the country, engage with State Governments, civil society and international community for furthering knowledge, language and culture and also strengthen research, innovation and encourage institutions to expand frontiers of knowledge.

### II BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

2.1 The Secretary in his presentation before the Committee gave the proposed demand and the actual allocation for the Department of Higher Education for 2017-18 are shown below:-

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Projected Demand</b>	<b>Actual Allocation</b>	<b>Percentage increase of actual allocation from the previous year</b>
2016-17	49713.83	28840.00	15.56%
2017-18	49269.19	33329.19	



2.2 The Department in its presentation also gave the sub-sector wise break-up of the Budget allocation as under:-

Name of Major Head	Annual Outlay 2016-17		Proposed Outlay 2017-18	Actual Outlay 2017-18	Percentage share of Sub-Sector
Universities & Higher Education	13895	14096	19373	14,000	42.01
Student Financial Aid	2220	2135	4300	2380	7.14
Open and distance Education & ICT	623	596	1018	605	10.82
Book Promotion	68	57	65	47	.14
Language Development	433	433	500	414	1.36
Planning Admin, & Global Engagement	217	224	303	258	.77
Technical Education	11,384	12,162	23,709	15,585	46.76
<b>Grant Total</b>	<b>28,840</b>	<b>29,703</b>	<b>49,269</b>	<b>33,329</b>	<b>100</b>

The Department further submitted that during Annual Budget 2016-17 actual expenditure is Rs. 23, 234 crore as on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 which is 78.22% of RE 2016-17. The Department further informed that total allocation for BE 2017-18 is Rs. 33,329.70 crore which is an increase of 15.56 % from Rs. 28,840 crore in BE - 2016-17.

2.3 The Department further submitted before the Committee that the government investment in higher education is being increased from current 1.34% of GDP to 1.5% of GDP by 2020.

2.4 The Department further added that IITs have been allocated Rs. 7856 crore for the year 2017-18 against Rs. 4983.71 crore in 2016-17 which is an increase of 57.76%, NITs allocation has been increased from Rs. 2629.95 to Rs. 3440 crore which is an increase of 30.80%, IIMs allocation has been increased to Rs. 1030 crore from Rs. 730 crore, which is an increase of 41.1% and Central Universities allocation has increased to Rs. 6515.93 crore from Rs. 6358.93 which is an

increase of 2.31%.The Members pointed out that the IIMs and IITs are getting a large amount of budgetary allocation as compared to the Central Universities. The Members then pointed out that that during the visits of the Committee many of the Central Universities submitted that they were running short of funds. The Committee was told by them that because of lack of adequate funding the Central Universities are not able to compete with the world universities.

2.5 The Committee was further informed that the allocation for UGC and AICTE has been increased to Rs. 5176.94 crores from Rs. 4972.94 crore which is an increase of 4.10%.

2.6 The Committee was further informed that there are four schemes being implemented since 11<sup>th</sup> Plan were continued in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. The Budgetary and Financial status of these schemes was given to the Committee as under:

(Rs in crores)

Schemes	Actual 2016-17 (as on 8.2.2017)	Total BE 2017-18
Setting up of New Polytechnic	81.97	250.00 (as part of RUSA)
Strengthen of existing Polytechnic	32.51	
Construction of Women Hostel in polytechnics	7.81	
Commit Development through Polytechnics (CDTP)	23.43	
Total	145.72	

2.7 The Committee appreciates that the amount in the Budget has been increased by 15.56%. The Committee observes that the funding for technical and management institutions in the budget has seen an increase of 57.76% and 41.1% respectively. The Committee would like point out that the funding for Central Universities has seen an increase of just 2.31%. The Committee observes that this increase for Central Universities is just meagre as compared to their infrastructure, faculty and number of students. The Committee recommends that Central Universities have a larger number of students enrolled

**in them as compared to the technical and management institutes; therefore the Department should increase the funding for the Central Universities appropriately.**

### **III GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO**

3.1 The Department during its presentation informed the Committee that the Higher Education system in India is extensive with 757 universities of which 111 are under Government of India. There are 38,056 colleges and total enrolment is 3.32 crores (of which regular enrolment is 2.93 crore). However, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education continues to be low and is much below the world average (44%), and way behind that of the developed countries (58%).

3.2 The Department further added that GER is presently 24.5% now and efforts are being made to increase it to 30.1% by 2020. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for different categories in Higher Education is given below:-

<b>Years</b>	<b>Higher Education</b>		
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16(P)</b>
All Categories	23.0	24.3	24.5
SC	17.1	19.1	19.9
ST	11.3	13.7	14.2

3.3 The Committee was also informed that in order to increase the GER of SC/ST and Minorities in the Higher Education Sector, reservation is being provided to SC's, STs and OBC's students under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in admissions) ACT, 2006. In order to strengthen its efforts, the Government has also undertaken several initiatives such as opening of new institutions, scholarship and interest subsidy on education loans availed by students. Extensive use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications is also being made in furtherance of higher education in the Country.

**3.4 The Committee takes note of the work done by the Department in the increase of Gross Enrolment Ratio. The Committee emphasizes the need for promotion of skill improvement as it has always been neglected. The Committee recommends that the Department should make efforts not only to increase the content and length of the skill development courses, but also strengthen the industrial linkage.**

**3.5 The Committee observes that Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC/ST students at 19.9 and 14.2 respectively, is below the national average of 24.5. This needs to be improved by taking all the necessary steps by the Department. The Committee desires that the Department should ensure the benefit of scholarships and reservation being provided to SC/ST/OBC and minority students reach them and thereby result into enhanced GER in these categories. The Committee, however, would like to reiterate that the Department should not only take steps to bridge the gap between the general category students and the SC/ST/OBC and minorities students but also take initiatives so that students from these sections do not leave their education in between.**

#### **IV. RASHTRIYA UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA)**

4.1 The Department submitted to the Committee that Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) has been launched with the aim to achieve equity, access and excellence in State higher education system. The Scheme supports components such as upgrading autonomous colleges to universities, clustering colleges to establish a university, setting up of new professional colleges in un-served and underserved areas as well as providing infrastructure grants to universities and colleges to scale up capacity. It is an overarching scheme, operated in mission mode for funding the state universities and colleges in order to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence.

4.2 While elaborating the Scheme the Department informed that the central funding flows from MHRD to institutions through the State Governments and the funding to States are made on the basis of critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans (SHEPs). These plans describe each state's strategy for addressing the issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education. Currently, all the States and Union Territories except UT of Lakshadweep have submitted their willingness to be a part of the scheme. The central funding is in the ratio of 60:40 for general category States and 90:10 for special category States (North-Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and cent per cent for Union Territories. An amount of Rs 2253.23 crore has been released as on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017 for various components under RUSA Scheme since its inception.

4.3 The Department further added that the RUSA Mission Authority delineates overall policy and planning, reviews function of Project Approval Board (PAB) etc. The Secretary, Higher Education chairs the PAB which approves SHEPs, assesses performance of States and institutions

and approve release of funds. So far, 11 meetings of the PAB have been held. These two bodies are supported by the Technical Support Group (TSG) which examines and appraises SHEPs, monitors flow of funds and information and provides all operational, technical, logistical and managerial support. The project is steered in each State/UT through State Higher Education Councils (SHEC). The SHECs are supported in turn by the State Project Directorate (created by the State Government and State TSGs). These bodies would be responsible for management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project at the State/UT levels.

4.4 The Committee pointed out that under Central Government infrastructure grants to State universities; Rs. 570.98 crore has been approved by the Project Appraisal Board (PAB) of RUSA out of which Rs. 370.882 crore is central share. The Committee further added that out of this Rs. 171.023 crore has been disbursed and Rs. 41.615 crore has been utilized since its inception.

**4.5 The Committee is astonished to note that only 46% of the total Central share has been released and 24.7 % of the released fund has been utilized so far. When enquired the Department could not furnish the desired details of fund earmarked for RUSA and also failed to give explanation why so less fund has been released and further why only 11% of the total central share was utilized. The Committee therefore, calls for the details as well as the reasons for the above under utilization. Further the Committee would like to know how the State share of Rs. 200 crore was utilized. The Committee may be apprised accordingly by the Department in its Action Taken Replies.**

4.6 The Committee observes that out of Rs. 171.023 crores only Rs. 41 crores have been utilized till date and the rest of the money remains un-utilized. Ideally, the entire money should have been utilized by the State Government. The Committee points out that such under-utilization itself casts aspersions on the functioning of this scheme. The Committee has reasons to believe that both Centre and State Governments have not handled the scheme efficiently and also it seems that there is hardly any coordination between the two Governments. The Committee wants that Central & the State Governments should ensure success of this scheme by taking all the necessary measures in consultation with each other.

4.7 The Committee notes that there appears to be the complete absence of monitoring mechanism so far as implementation of the scheme is concerned. The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the Department should have a robust monitoring mechanism

for the effective utilization of these funds. The Committee, further, recommends that there should be incentives and rewards for the State Governments who have used the funds optimally.

**4.8** Further, the Committee recommends that the higher amount of financial support may specially be provided to the institutions which are in rural regions, remote areas and hilly terrain. The Committee, also recommends that Department should focus on the up-gradation of autonomous colleges which have the potential for excellence. The Department should in collaboration with State Governments develop Cluster college/Universities and introduce integrated UG/PG programmes for improving the skills of the student.

## **V. IITs, IIMs AND NITs**

### **IITs**

5.1 The Department submitted that it has been decided to establish 6 IITs each at Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka. The Union Cabinet in its Meeting held on 25.5.2016 inter-alia approved amendment to the Institute of Technology Act, 1961 for incorporation of the six new IITs at Tirupati (AP), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwar (Karnataka), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Goa, Jammu (J&K), and conversion of ISM Dhanbad to an IIT under the IT Act, 1961. The Lok Sabha passed the Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016 on 25.7.2016 and the same has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 02.08.2016. The 6 IITs have been accordingly incorporated in the IT Act, 1961. The status on establishment of each of these IITs is as follows:

- (a) **IIT Goa:-** A site measuring about 318 acres land in Loliem Village, Canacona Taluka, South Goa District, Goa, has been approved for the permanent campus of IIT Goa and Goa Engineering College at Farmagudi, Ponda, has been approved as Temporary Campus. IIT Bombay is the Mentor Institute of IIT-Goa. Academic Session has commenced in 2016-17 at IIT Goa, with an intake of 90 students. Rs. 10 cr. have been released to IIT Goa through its Mentor as on date.
- (b) **IIT Jammu:-** The Khanpur Nagrota site has been approved for setting up of the permanent campus of IIT Jammu and the KCS College of Education, Jammu, will be used as temporary campus in 2016-17 (with a provision to extend its usage for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, i.e. 2017-18), with the construction of the transit campus at the main campus being done parallelly, for being operationalised in 2017-18. IIT-Delhi is the Mentor Institute of IIT-Jammu. Academic Session has commenced in 2016-17 with an intake of 90 students. An amount of Rs. 69.34 crore has been released to IIT-Jammu through its Mentor Institute as

on date.

- (c) **IIT Bhilai :-** A site measuring 349 acres at Kutelabhata Village, Bhilai, District Durg, along with 88 acres of land in village Sirsa, subject to State Government ensuring protection of submergence of Sirsa land and proper road connectivity between the main campus at Kutelabhata and Sirsa, has been approved for permanent campus. It has also been decided that the Government Engineering College, Raipur, will be used as the Temporary Campus for IIT at Chhattisgarh. Also, 10 acres land at Naya Raipur, which was identified by the State Government, shall be allotted for setting up Industry Interaction Centre and Research Park of the IIT. Academic Session has commenced in 2016-17 with an intake of 120 students. An amount of Rs. 15.00 crore has been released to IIT Bhilai through its.
- (d) **IIT Palakkad :-** A land measuring 400 acres at Pudussery West, Palakkad has been approved for permanent campus and Ahalia Integrated Campus, in Palakkad has been approved for temporary campus. IIT-Madras is the Mentor Institute of IIT-Palakkad. The academic Session of the Institute has been commenced from the year 2015-16 with a sanctioned strength of 120 students- 30 each in Civil Engg., Computer Science Engg., Electrical Engg. and Mechanical Engg. IIT Palakkad has been incorporated in the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, through the Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Act, 2016, w.e.f. 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. An amount of Rs.50.65 crore has been released to IIT Palakkad through its Mentor Institute as on date.
- (e) **IIT Tirupati :-** A land measuring 589.55 acres at Merlapaka Village, Yerpedu (Mandal), Chittoor District (Near Tirupathi) has been approved for permanent campus and Chadalwada Venkata Subbaiah College of Engineering, Renigunta Road, Tirupati has been approved as the temporary campus. IIT Madras is the Mentor Institute of IIT Tirupati. The academic Session of the Institute has been commenced from the year 2015-16 with a sanctioned strength of 120 students- 30 each in Civil Engg., Computer Science Engg., Electrical Engg. and Mechanical Engg. 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting was held on 12.1.2016. An amount of Rs.39.49 crore has been released to IIT-Tirupati through its Mentor Institute as on date.
- (f) **IIT Dharwad, Karnataka:** A site measuring about 470.21 acres, 1.2 km inside the main road in Kelagari village, Dharwad has been approved as the Permanent Campus and Water & Land Management Institute (WALMI) has been approved as the temporary campus. IIT Bombay is the Mentor Institute of IIT Dharwad. Academic Session has commenced in 2016-17 at IIT Dharwad, with an intake of 120 students. An amount of Rs.15.00 crore has been released for operationalization of IIT Dharwad to IIT-Bombay, as on date.

## **IIMs**

5.2 Indian Institutes of Managements (IIMs) are autonomous institutions under the administrative control of Ministry of Human Resource Development. Presently 20, IIMs are in

functional position all over India. During the year 2014-15, six more IIMs have come into existence located at Amritsar (Punjab), Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Sambalpur (Odisha), Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh) and Viskhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The academic sessions of these IIMs have commenced from academic year 2015-16 from their temporary campuses. In addition, IIM Jammu in the State of Jammu & Kashmir has also been established and commenced academic section from 2016-17 from its temporary campus. All 2<sup>nd</sup> generation IIMs like IIM, Rohtak, IIM Shillong, IIM Raipur, IIM Trichy, IIM Kashipur and IIM Udaipur and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation IIMs, located at Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmaur and Vishakhapatnam are given full funding for their construction activities and recurring expenditure. The details of grants released to each of these IIMs during the year 2016-17 are as under:-

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Institute</b>	<b>Amount released (in Lakhs) as on 01.02.2017</b>
1	IIM, Rohtak	7,900.00
2	IIM, Raipur	6,242.80
3	IIM, Ranchi	2,300.00
4	IIM, Trichy	10,850.00
5	IIM, Kashipur	8,250.00
6	IIM, Udaipur	10,195.00
7	RGIIM, Shillong	3500.00
8	IIM, Andhra Pradesh	1,193.00
10	IIM, Nagpur	500.00
11	IIM, Amritsar	500.00
12	IIM, Bodh Gaya	500.00
13	IIM, Sambalpur	500.00
15	IIM, Sirmaur	500.00
16	IIM, J & K	1,880.50

5.3 On the status of construction of infrastructure of the new NITs the Department submitted that out of 11 new NITs, 08 NITs (Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puduchery and Andhra Pradesh) have got land for permanent campus from the



respective State Governments and the work for construction of infrastructure has been augmented in 07 NITs (except NIT, Andhra Pradesh). NITs located at Goa, Uttarakhand and Sikkim are yet to get land for construction at the permanent campuses. All the NITs, except NIT, Nagaland are presently functioning from their respective temporary campuses provided by the State Governments.

**5.4 The Committee is happy to note that new IITs and IIMs have been opened in the last few years to cater to the increasing demand for quality higher technical educational institutions. The Committee, however, would like to point out that while creating new IITs and IIMs, the Department should also ensure provision of adequate funds for the development of infrastructure in these higher educational institutions.**

**5.6 The Committee desires that the Department should ensure that these institutions are set up expeditiously. A time line needs to be drawn and all efforts need to be made in coordination with all stakeholders including the State Government to facilitate the setting up these institutions. The Committee also desire that since all these institutions will be our premier institutions of national importance and so all required resources, financial or otherwise should be adequately given.**

## **VI. PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA NATIONAL MISSION ON TEACHERS & TEACHING (PMMMMNMTT)**

6.1 The Department submitted that with the fast pace of expansion of the education system in the country, both at school and higher education stages, improving quality has come to occupy centre stage in educational development and that teachers hold the key for success of any effort in this direction. Attention, therefore, has to be focused on the preparation of teachers and their working conditions in classrooms, schools and colleges, as also their continuous professional development. Hence, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers & Teaching was launched.

6.2 The Mission aims at addressing comprehensively all issues related to teachers, teaching, teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum design, and developing assessment & evaluation methodology, research in developing effective Pedagogy. This is one of the major thrust areas of action of the Government. The Mission addresses current and urgent issues such as supply of qualified teachers, attracting talent into teaching profession and raising the quality of

teaching in schools and colleges. On the other, the Mission will pursue long term goals of building a strong professional cadre of teachers by setting performance standards and creating top class institutional facilities for innovative teaching and professional development of teachers.

6.3 The Mission focuses on these goals in a holistic manner dealing with the whole sector of education without fragmenting the programmes based on levels and sectors as school, higher, technical etc. This is an umbrella scheme aimed at creating synergies among the various ongoing initiatives on Teachers and Teaching under Ministry of HRD and other autonomous institutions. A total of 14 proposals from various Universities/Institutes from all over the country have been approved in the year 2016 bringing the total number of approved proposals to 41 as of now for setting up institutional arrangements under various components of the Scheme.

6.4 The Mission consists of the following components:-

- (i) Schools of Education (in Central Universities) - 30
- (ii) Centers of Excellence for Curriculum and Pedagogy -50
- (iii) Inter-University Centers for Teachers' Education - 2
- (iv) National Resource Centre for Education - 1
- (v) Centers for Academic Leadership and Education Management - 5
- (vi) Innovations, Awards, Teaching Resource Grant, including Workshop & Seminar
- (vii) Subject Networks for Curricular Renewal and Reforms

**6.5 The Committee notes that this scheme has been formed with a vision of making teaching jobs attractive and restoring it to a level of a dignified profession. The Committee is constrained to note that the Scheme since its inception i.e., from 2014 has not made any progress. The information submitted by the Ministry gives a picture that so far only Rs. 1.25 crore have been spent and 41 proposals has been received from universities/institutes from all over the country and out of 88 centres only 59 have been set-up till date. The Committee would like to recommend that the mission should look at teacher's education and training in holistic manner and strengthen the institutional mechanism at all levels right from school to colleges. The Committee also impresses upon the Department of Higher Education to expedite the pace of the scheme.**

## **VII. SWAYAM & NMEICT**

7.1 The Committee was informed that the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is major initiative of University Grants Commission (UGC) to bring qualitative change in academic libraries in India. The main objective of the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is to

provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text and bibliographic databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The major aims and objectives of the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium are as follows:

- a. to provide access to a high-quality and scholarly electronic resources to a large number of academic institutions including universities and colleges at substantially lower rates of subscription and at most favorable terms and conditions;
- b. to promote rapid and efficient access to scholarly content to the users and to create and promote use of ICT in teaching and learning in universities in India;
- c. to extend the benefit of Consortium to its associate members including private universities and colleges;
- d. to impart training to the users, librarians, research scholars and faculty members of the institutions in use of electronic resources with an aim to optimize their usage;
- e. to promote use of e-e-resources with gradual decrease in print subscription;
- f. to promote interaction and inter-library cooperation amongst the participating universities;
- g. to evaluate the usage of the subscribed resources and to identify new resources that are required to be subscribed under the programme;
- h. to bring qualitative change in teaching, learning and research with an aim to meet the ever growing challenges of globalization of higher education; and
- i. to increase the research productivity of the institutions both in terms of quality and quantity of publications.

7.2 The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 5,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and nine bibliographic databases in different disciplines from 23 publishers and aggregators. The access to all major e-resources was given to 50 universities in first phase in the year 2004. It has now been extended to 157 universities in three different phases. In terms of number of users, the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is the largest Consortium in India with a vision and plan to reach out to all universities and colleges affiliated to these universities, over a period of time.

**7.3 The Committee recognizes the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The Committee recommends that new technologies such as online teaching, virtual class rooms etc. must be used for enhanced learning experience for the students. The faculty must be encouraged to leverage ICT for better learning outcomes and also deployed for assessment of student's performance. The information and communication technology needs to be used as a tool across all institution and necessary infrastructure must be made available to institutions.**

## VIII. IMPACTING RESEARCH INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (IMPRINT)

8.1 Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), a flagship national initiative of the Government, launched on November 5, 2015, aims at addressing and providing solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges faced by the nation by translating knowledge into viable technology (products or processes) in selected technology domains to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance. It is a pan IITs and IISc Joint Initiative to develop a roadmap for research. The domain areas identified for the focus of the IMPRINT Initiative are health care, energy, sustainable habitat, nano technology hardware, water resources and river systems, advanced materials, Information and communication technology, (manufacturing, security and defense, and ( environmental science and climate change.

8.2 The Department informed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between 25 Participating Ministries/ Departments on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016, to ensure that coordinated action is taken to support research under IMPRINT. In 2016-17, a provision of Rs. 50.00 crore has been made in the BE 2016-17. Consequent to an SFC Meeting, chaired by Secretary (HE), MHRD, held on 4-7-2016, implementation of the IMPRINT Initiative at an estimated cost of Rs. 487.00 cr. over a period of 3 years as per the table below bifurcation has been approved.

(Rs. in crore)

Items	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
Funding for Proposals	175	150	150
IMPRINT Cell	4	4	4
Total	179	154	154
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>487</b>		

8.3 A total of 2612 project proposals were submitted across these ten technology domains and identified under this scheme. Of these, 259 proposals have been approved by the Apex Committee chaired by Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD. The cost of the project is met to the extent of 50% by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the remaining 50%

by the participating Ministry/Department. 90 proposals out of 259 have been accepted for funding by participating Ministry/Department. As on date, a sum of Rs. 35 crore has been released to IIT Kanpur (National Coordinator of the Scheme) for implementation of this Initiative.

**8.4 The Committee appreciates the Department for taking the initiative for enhancing the quality of research and innovation in the country. However, the Committee would like to recommend that the Department should follow some parameters like outcome based research funding; liberal research grants for both social sciences and basic sciences; setting up incubation centers with enough seed money to do innovative research, collaborate with R&D in industry, setting up of research parks, inter-disciplinary research, establish centers in frontier areas of research and viable Public Private Partnership in research; and innovation.**

#### **IX GIAN (GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF ACADEMIC NETWORKS)**

9.1 The Department submitted that Government had launched the GIAN Scheme on 30th November, 2015, which aimed at inviting eminent faculty, scientists, and entrepreneurs from premier educational and scientific institutions across the world to teach in the higher educational institutions in the country with a view to give international exposure to Indian students. Under this scheme, 801 course proposals have been approved so far and out of these, 597 courses have been organized. Grants of Rs. 20.00 crore have also been released to IIT, Kharagpur for GIAN initiative during 2016-17.

9.2 The Committee was informed that so far, 78 foreign academicians have agreed and been approved to teach the courses at Government educational institutions. It is a part of the ongoing process to raise academic standards; promote international synergies, partnerships and collaboration and bring internationally reputed and recognized academicians to India.

**9.3 The Committee observes that this scheme by the Department to bring world class teachers to teach courses in Government educational institutions is commendable. The Committee, however, would like to recommend that the Department should provide adequate facilities and research facilities in the premier educational and scientific institutions so that these institutions not just attract global faculty but also international students.**

## **X. TECHNICAL EDUCATION-QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (TEQIP)**

10.1 The Department submitted that AICTE is conscious of the shortage as well as the availability of quality faculty in technical institutions. Apart from prescribing norms and standard for faculty requirement and cadre ratio for giving approval to technical institutions, AICTE is making concerted efforts to upgrade the skills of faculty by way of providing opportunities to faculty through short term and long term quality improvement program conducted in QIP Centers promoted by it in various parts of the country.

10.2 The Department further added that under its Quality Improvement Scheme (AQIS), AICTE has taken several initiatives to promote quality in Technical Education through Research, Institutional and Faculty Development Program (RIFD) with ultimate aim to attract and motivate young generation to join faculty, pursue higher study and carry out research. The faculty is given enormous chances to improve their educational qualification under Quality Improvement Program (QIP), and develop research under Research Promotion Scheme (RPS). Faculty Development Program (FDP) also provides opportunities to faculty member of AICTE approved Colleges/Institutions to facilitate up-gradation of knowledge and skill. In addition, under Travel Grant Program (TG) meritorious faculty gets opportunities to interact at International Level Seminars, and Symposia, both within and outside India, Teachers from AICTE approved Technical Institutions/University departments are eligible for this grant. Various Schemes also provides financial assistance to faculty members for quality education/ research and capacity building programs as follows:

- i. **Quality Improvement Program (QIP):** To upgrade the expertise and capabilities of the faculty members of the degree level institutions in the country. The aim is to enable the teachers to acquire Master's/Doctoral degrees. Scholar-ships are paid @ Rs.9000/- per month for M.Tech (Polytechnic) and Rs.15,000/- per month for Ph.D. for a maximum period of two and three years respectively.
- ii. **Research Promotion Scheme (RPS):** Is aimed to create research ambience in the Institutes by promoting research in engineering sciences and innovations in established and newer technologies; and to encourage Master's and Doctoral candidates to augment the quality of faculty and research personnel in the country. Maximum grant per research scheme is Rs.25,00,000/- for a duration of three years.
- iii. **Adjunct Faculty:** To appoint Adjunct Faculty for bringing external perspective to regular teaching to make classes more interesting and to enrich knowledge of regular faculty members too. The limit of funding is Rs. 6 Lakhs/ Faculty/ Institute.
- iv. **Trainee Teacher Scheme:** The scheme is intended towards attracting bright Undergraduate and Postgraduate students to teaching profession by providing scholarships for M.Tech/Ph.D

Fellowships and assured job for advancing their professional growth. The maximum funding is Rs.2.5 lakhs over and above other financial assistance/scholarship, if any. The duration of the project is for three years. Trainee Teacher Scheme was launched in 2016.

- v. **Faculty Development Program:** The Faculty Development Program intends to provide financial assistance to facilitate up-gradation of knowledge and skill. Total funding of Rs.7 lakhs is provided and the project duration is 2 weeks.
- vi. **Scheme Of Seminar Grant (SG):** Scheme provides financial assistance to institutions for organizing seminar/ workshop at National and International level in various fields of Technical education and also extending opportunities to the academicians and working professionals for sharing the knowledge, experience, innovation and inventions. Total funding is up to Rs. 2 lakhs for National and Rs.3 lakhs for International seminars.
- vii. **Scheme of Travel Grant (TG):** The scheme is aimed at promoting research and development activities in various areas of Technical Education for meritorious faculties to interact at international level to update the global changes in the field of concerned fields of specialization. Total funding of Rs. 1.5 lakh (reimbursement of Airfare, Registration fee and per Diem) once in three year.

**10.3 The Committee endorses the existing/ongoing schemes of AICTE towards faculty development. The Committee further wishes that in addition to these schemes, the AICTE should also explore the possibilities of providing enhanced research fellowships and also ensure strong industry faculty association. The Committee further suggests strengthening and empowering of affiliated colleges by giving autonomy so as to enable them to design specialized courses considering the need of the industry. The Committee strongly feels in order to gain the credibility, it is essential to ensure transparency in these institutions both in the government and private as regards its governance and financial management.**

## **XI. FACULTY POSITIONS**

11.1 The Department informed the Committee that Recruitment of faculty is a continuous process and the vacancies keep arising due to retirements, resignations and additional requirements on account of enhanced student's strength. The Institutions are engaging contract, adjunct and visiting faculty as well as using online mode of teaching to overcome these shortages. To make the teaching profession more attractive, the faculty is encouraged to undertake consultancy and are given start-up financial support.

11.2 The Department further added that since, arising of vacancies and filling them up with suitable, qualified candidates is a continuous process, the IITs have been taking measures to attract quality faculty, which include year-round open advertisements, invitation through search-

cum-selection procedures to alumni/scientists/faculty, advertisements in international journals, and appointment of NRIs and PIOs to faculty positions on the same terms as applicable to regular faculty. In addition, Institutes are engaging contract, adjunct and visiting faculty. The Government has also launched the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) to enable foreign faculty to teach some courses in the higher educational institutions. Steps such as outstanding young faculty awards, mobility of faculty from one Central Educational Institute to another, and pay parity to faculty have also been taken to attract best faculty in these Institutions. There is no adverse effect on studies in the institute due to shortage of faculty, as the same is adequately compensated by the research scholars, contract, adjunct and visiting faculty.

11.3 The faculty status (both in government and private engineering institutions) from 2014-15 onwards is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Faculty positions</b>	<b>Actual</b>
2014-15	663708	636528
2015-16	714021	699023
2016-17	724455	684302

In NITs, at present 7489 faculty posts stand sanctioned to 31 NITs and IEST, Shibpur against which a total number of 5718 (including 1760 on contract) faculty is presently engaged in these institutions. The sanctioned strength of faculty in respect of 11 new NITs is 473, against which 146 are lying vacant. The revision of pay scale of university and college teachers had been implemented by all the State Governments. The orders regarding enhancement of age superannuation and payment of salary arrears had been sent to the Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries of State Government.

11.4 As informed by the Department of Higher Education, Central Universities are adopting different methods/process to address faculty shortages in order to ensure that studies of students are not affected, which inter-alia, include hiring ad-hoc faculty, Guest Faculty, Contract Faculty and Re-employed. The total number of sanctioned teaching posts in various Central Universities is 17006 (2412 Professor, 4788 Associate Professor and 9806 Assistant Professor). Out of the total sanctioned teaching posts 6141 teaching posts are lying vacant (1334 Professor, 2250 Associate Professor, 2557 Assistant Professor).



The details of faculty employed in Central Universities on ad-hoc basis, Guest Faculty, are as under:-

<b>Adhoc</b>	<b>Guest Faculty</b>	<b>Contract basis</b>	<b>Re-employed</b>	<b>Total</b>
163	1602	725	118	2608

After taking into account the above ad-hoc/guest faculty/contract/ re-employed positions, the teaching vacancy positions comes about 21% as on 01.01.2017. In order to meet the situation arising out of shortage of teachers in universities and other teaching institutions and the consequential vacant positions therein, the age of superannuation for teachers in Central Educational Institution has already been enhanced to sixty five years; vide the Department of Higher Education letter No. F.1-19/2006-U.II dated 23.3.2007.

11.5 Besides, subject to availability of vacant positions and fitness, teachers shall also be re-employed on contract appointment beyond the age of sixty five years up to the age of seventy years. Re-employment beyond the age of superannuation shall, however, be done selectively, for a limited period of 3 years in the first instance and then for another further period of 2 years purely on the basis of merit, experience, area of specialization and peer group review and only against available vacant positions.

11.6 Further, UGC initiated a scheme called Operation Faculty Recharge for augmenting the research and teaching resources of universities to tackle the shortage of faculty in university system. Two modalities have been evolved for their engagement with the university system: The “Adjunct faculty” route has been initiated for younger and mid-career professionals within the target groups, and the ‘scholar-in-residence’ avenue for senior professionals and specialists. Adjunct faculty will be expected to facilitate the setting of workshops and labs, providing hands on training in the relevant domain areas, development of soft skills, and focus on ensuring competency based learning outcomes among students.

11.7 The UGC has sanctioned 706 adjunct faculty positions for the entire university system in the country, with Central Universities allowed five such positions each, State Universities two

each, and Deemed Universities one each. UGC also framed the guidelines for empanelment of Adjunct Faculty in Universities and Colleges. These guidelines enable higher educational institutions to access the eminent teachers and researchers who have completed their formal association with the University/College, to participate in teaching, to collaborate and to stimulate research activities for quality research at M. Phil and Ph.D. levels; and to play mentoring and inspirational role.

11.8 As per this guideline, Adjunct faculty will be provided travel cost, as per entitlement, from his/her institution/place of stay and back, maximum six (06) times per academic year. No reimbursement for hiring accommodation will be permissible. However, she/he will be provided free lodging and boarding in the guest House. Beside the above, an honorarium of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand only) per lecture to a maximum, of Rs. 4000/- (Rs. Four Thousand Only) per day of service subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 80,000/- (Rs. Eighty Thousand Only) per month would also be given. The Adjunct Faculty will work at the host institution for a minimum of 02 days per visit.

11.9 The faculty position in IITs was given the Department:-

Sl. No.	Name of IITs	Faculty strength sanctioned by MHRD	Current faculty position	Vacant	Vacancy percentage
1.	IIT. Bombay	985	700	295	30%
2.	IIT. Delhi	776	508	268	35%
3.	IIT. Guwahati	560	411	149	27%
4.	IIT. Kanpur	657	415	242	37%
5.	IIT. Kharagpur	1153	619	534	46%
6.	IIT. Madras	800	574	226	28%
7.	IIT. Roorkee	807	443	364	49%
8.	IIT. BHU	502	265	237	47%
9.	IIT. Bhubaneswar	170	111	59	35%
10.	IIT. Gandhinagar	120	107	13	11%

11.	IIT. Hyderabad	207	174	33	16%
12.	IIT. Indore	90	91	-1	-1%
13.	IIT. Jodhpur	90	55	35	39%
14.	IIT. Mandi	90	97	-7	-8%
15.	IIT. Patna	126	101	25	20%
16.	IIT. Ropar	110	84	26	24%
17.	IIT. Tirupati	18	11	7	39%
18.	IIT. Palakhad	18	13	0	28%
19.	IIT. Jammu	0	0	0	0%
20.	IIT. Bhilai	0	0	0	0%
21.	IIT. Goa	0	0	0	0%
22.	IIT. Dharwad	0	0	0	0%
23.	IIT. Dhanwad	455	293	162	36%
<b>Total</b>		<b>7744</b>	<b>5672</b>	<b>2672</b>	<b>35%</b>

**11.11** The Committee expresses its concern over the shortage of faculty positions in all the institutions including the private ones. It points out that there can be only two possibilities, either our young talented students are not attracted towards the teaching profession or the recruitment process is a prolonged one and involves too many procedural formalities. In either case, the Department being the nodal authority for the entire country so far as higher education sector is concerned has to take proactive role so as to expedite the filling up a existing vacancies.

**11.12** The Committee has been voicing its concern from time to time on the acute shortage of faculty in higher educational institutions across the country. The Committee is anguished to find out that all kinds of institutions right from well established Central Universities to those set up recently, State universities as well as private universities, premier institutions like IITs, NITs and IIMs, this problem has emerged as the biggest handicap for the development and growth of Higher Education *vis-a-vis* maintaining the quality of education. Situation continues to be grim with no improvement being foreseen in the near future. The

**Committee points out that the availability of adequate and qualified faculty is a pre-requisite for quality education. So far, the efforts of the Department, the regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTC etc. and the universities and other institutions have not been adequate enough to reach a satisfaction level. The Committee therefore impress upon all the stakeholders to expedite and ensure that shortages are eliminated or minimized.**

**11.13 The Committee, however, recognizes the steps taken by Department like increase in the retirement age up to 65 years and improvement of salary structures.**

**11.14 The Committee recommends that recruitment process should start well in advance before the post is vacated so that after retirement, the newly recruited person takes up position immediately. The Ministry should work in tandem with Institutions to have this exercise on yearly basis and recruitment must be done in advance so that shortage does not develop into crisis. While taking note of the steps taken up by the Department for filling up the vacancies, the Committee observes that in order to make the teaching profession more attractive, the government's effort to allow and encourage the faculty to undertake consultancy and the financial support, for setting up start up have to be lucrative enough so as to meet the expectations of the aspirants. The Committee accordingly directs the Department of Higher Education to explore the possibilities and take necessary steps on priority basis.**

**11.15 The Committee further recommends that in order to improve the position there should be an increase in the number of research fellowships for M.Phil, PhD and Post Doctoral Program to create potential faculty for universities and colleges and also increase the number of fellowship and amount through NET. The Department should also provide an opportunity to the teachers to present papers in academic conferences seminars or participate in workshops; exchange knowledge and ideas; and the young faculty member to spend a short period of two weeks to two months at institutions of their choice for a better academic exposure.**

## **XII. SCHOLARSHIPS**

**12.1 The Committee was apprised about the following scholarships schemes of the Department of higher education.**

## **SAKSHAM**

12.2 The Department submitted that All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is implementing Saksham Scholarship Scheme to provide encouragement and support to differently-abled students to pursue technical education in a year.

12.3 The Department further added under Saksham Scheme 1000 scholarships are disbursed every year. Out of which 50% scholarships are available at each degree /diploma level and also transferable in the event of non availability of eligible applicant in any of the of degree/ diploma level programme. Number of Scholarship is further distributed among different categories -15% for SC, 7.5% ST and 27% for OBC candidate/applicant. Amount of scholarship constitutes of contingency amount Rs. 2000/- per month for 10 months as incidentals each year and Tuition Fee of Rs. 30000/- or at actual, whichever is less.

12.4 The Department further submitted that Saksham Scheme is using DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) through which the sanctioned amount is transferred directly to the students bank account and Institute is not linked in this transaction. Due to lack of applications received last year Saksham scheme has been revamped and following changes have been suggested by the experts. In case of candidates availing Tuition fee waiver/reimbursement, and amount of Rs. 30000/- may be reimbursed to the candidates selected for this scheme by the way of reimbursement for

- a) Purchase of books,
- b) Purchase of equipments, software
- c) Purchase of Laptops.
- d) Purchase of Desktops
- e) Purchase of customized vehicle.
- f) Fees paid towards competitive examination application forms/exam fees for all examinations related to higher education / employment.
- g) Purchase of specific equipments/software for visually impaired/speech and hearing disabled.

12.5 The Committee was further informed that under the Central Sector Scheme of scholarships for College & University students, Central Reservation Policy is followed and under Special scholarship scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and State reservation Policy of Jammu & Kashmir is followed. Under both schemes, 3% reservation is provided for differently- abled candidates.

12.6 The Department apprised the Committee that "PM Research Fellows" has been launched. The Department pointed out that the quality of the research is contingent upon the quality of the

students enrolled in the PhD Programmes. In order to improve the quality in research, it is essential to encourage bright students completing their B. Tech. to register for direct PhD programmes. The Kakodkar Committee constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to suggest a roadmap for autonomy and future of IITs in order to make them world class institutions for research and higher learning, in its report recommended that special efforts be made to identify and pick up bright 3rd year students of IITs and other institutions to initiate them into the PhD programmes. The Committee also recommended augmenting the intake of PhD students from the industry. The objective is to promote research of the highest order in the area of cutting edge technologies and to meet the demands of indigenous industries for supplementing Government of India's flagship programmes such as "Make in India" and "Start-up Initiative."

12.7 The Scheme has the following broad contours:

- (a) The Scheme allows direct admission into the PhD programme for a period of 5 years.
- (b) Those students in the final year of B Tech programme in IITs who secure a minimum of 8.5 CGPA shall be eligible for the fellowship.
- (c) The students to be offered fellowship shall be required to write the outline of the research project they would like to take up as a part of the PhD programme. These would be examined by a Committee constituted by the BoG of each IIT and accordingly, the suitable students shall be selected for the PMRF.
- (d) The number of students selected to be offered the fellowships will be 500 in 2017-18, 750 in 2018-19 and 1000 in 2019-20.
- (e) Those selected, will be offered a fellowship of Rs.60,000/- per month for the period of research not exceeding 5 years from the date of registration along with a suitable research grant which could cover the expenses for attending international conferences etc.
- (f) In case the student leaves the fellowship before securing his PhD, the entire fellowship amount thus far released shall be returnable in one lump-sum.

12.8 The M. Tech. programme in IITs has been formulated to prepare the students for an eventual research work. The students in the M.Tech. programme are admitted through GATE and a counseling process. Each of the students admitted in the programme is paid a monthly fellowship of Rs.12, 400. In the year 2015, there were 14,600 students in the M. Tech. programme. The Department informed that this programme had an annual intake of more than 8,000 students. Although the programme has been designed as the first step towards a career in research/teaching, it was found that many students taking admission in the M. Tech. programme desert the course mid-way for a variety of reasons such as securing a job or getting better opportunities elsewhere.

The objective is to incentivize meritorious students to take up M.Tech Programme and help in better transacting B.Tech programme through their teaching assistantship.

12.9 The Scheme seeks to offer 1,000 Teaching Assistantships per year in the M. Tech. programme in the IITs, not exceeding 20% of the total intake in any discipline, consisting of the toppers in the GATE exam in the respective disciplines. Each M. Tech. Teaching Assistantship (TA) would be required to mandatorily work as TA for the B. Tech. students as specified by the Institute, and will be offered a Teaching Assistantship of Rs.25,000 per month, with the condition that in case the student leaves the programme mid-way, the entire amount thus far released to the would be repayable in one lump-sum. The Scheme will run for a period of four years beginning 2017-18. Therefore, it would cover 3 academic batches, viz., 2017-19, 2018-20 and 2019-21.

### **Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students**

12.10 The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to those meritorious students who are above 80<sup>th</sup> percentile of successful candidates in the relevant stream from a particular Board of Examination, in class XII and having family income of less than Rs.6 lakhs per annum. The total number of scholarships per year is 82000 (41000 for boys and 41000 for girls). The rate of scholarship is Rs. 10,000/- per annum for the first three years and Rs. 20,000/- per annum for the fourth and fifth year.

### **Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir Students**

12.11 The Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir is for the students of Jammu and Kashmir having family income of less than Rs. 6.0 lakh per annum, who have passed class XII from the State and secured admission outside the State in Institutions which are either approved under Section 12B of UGC Act or recognised by AICTE or respective regulatory body. Scholarship is provided to meet expenses towards tuition fees, hostel fees, cost of books and other incidental charges. It is envisaged to provide 5000 fresh scholarships every year. The scholarships are distributed in the ratio of 4500 for General courses, 250 for engineering course and 250 for Medical studies.

### **Pragati Scholarship**

12.12 To provide encouragement and support to Girl Child to pursue technical education “Pragati Scholarship” has been launched by the MHRD from the year 2014-15 and implemented by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Pragati is a scheme of AICTE aimed at providing assistance for Advancement of Girls participation in Technical Education. Total Number of beneficiaries benefited from Pragati Scheme is 2719 and amount disbursed is Rs. 7.61 cr (upto 31.1.2017). Women education is one of the important components of UGC in its policy of equity and access. The Commission has launched several schemes to encourage the enrolment and promotion of girls in higher education:

- a) Financial Assistance to universities and colleges for construction of women’s hostels.
- b) Financial Assistance for establishment of Day Care Centers to help women to continue their academic career.
- c) Indira Gandhi Scholarship to Single Girl Child.
- d) Assistance for capacity building for women managers in Higher Education.
- e) Post Doctoral fellowships for women.
- f) Establishment of Women’s studies centers.
- g) Additional assistance to universities & colleges with more women enrolment.

**12.13 The Committee gathers from above that from the scholarships run by AICTE/UGC etc., more than one lakh research students / scholars are benefitted. The Committee observes that the Department has to ensure that all the schemes of scholarships are implemented in its true spirit and it should reach to the beneficiaries strictly according to the rules, guidelines and other eligibility criteria provided there for. At the same time, it is also obligatory on the part of the Government to review these schemes time to time considering its relevance and also that the beneficiary students / research scholars get the financial assistance or other support adequately. The Committee apprehends that there can be institutions where students give up their research without completing it. The Department has also informed that the students enrolled for M.Tech. in the IITs desert their course mid-way for getting opportunity elsewhere. The Department should take all measures to avoid such a situation.**

### **XIII. HEFA**

13.1 The Department submitted that it has been decided to set up a Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with an initial capital base of Rs.1,000 crores. The HEFA will be a not-for-profit



organization that will leverage funds from the market and supplement them with donations and CSR funds. These funds will be used to finance improvement in infrastructure in our top institutions and will be serviced through internal accruals.

13.2 On the Status of Implementation, the Department informed that the Cabinet, in its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, considered and approved the proposal of establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with the stipulated provisions/governing structure. Canara Bank has been appointed as the joint promoter on behalf of the Government. It is expected that HEFA will be operational by end of May 2017, after its registration as NBFC.

13.3 The Committee was informed that the HEFA would finance the academic and research infrastructure through a 10-year loan and principal portion of loan will be repaid through internal accruals of these institutions. All the Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions would be eligible to joining as members of HEFA.

13.4 The Committee during its interaction with the universities and other academic institutions gathered the universities or institutions which are not in the domain of Central Government also desire to be covered by HEFA. The representatives of those institutions pleaded that it would not be in the fitness of things that this scheme covers only the universities of Central Government. This scheme should also be extended to the premier state universities / institutions.

**13.5 The Committee takes note of the proposed scheme which is expected to take off by the end of May. The Committee feels, since the scheme was announced last year, the Department and other agencies should have taken adequate efforts, so as to avoid delay in launching of this scheme. The Committee now emphasise upon the Department of Higher Education to ensure that no further delay takes place and the scheme takes off as proposed now. The Committee realises that the scheme is meant for the Centrally Funded Universities and other premier institutions. The Department may consider the demand raised by the State universities and private universities / institutions for coverage under this scheme.**

#### **XIV. UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN AND UCCHATAR AVISHKAR ABHIYAN**

14.1 Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had launched Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) on 11th November, 2014 to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. MHRD has advised all the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)

which are funded by the Central /State Government and all institutions which are under approval by the regulatory bodies to adopt clusters of backward Gram Panchayats / villages in their vicinity and apply their knowledge & expertise to improve the living conditions & livelihoods in the Gram Panchayats (GPs). The suggested inputs will be incorporated in the Gram Panchayat Development Plans to be considered for implementation by the District authorities.

14.2 Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has been designated as the Coordinating Institute for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. A National Steering Committee has been constituted with eminent scientists, technologists, educationist as well as representatives from different nodal Ministries of Government of India. Presently, 40 HEIs have identified clusters of villages after consultation with District Collectors. 26 HEIs have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Delhi to carry out further steps.

### **Ucchatar Avishkar Abhiyan**

14.3 Hon'ble HRM announced in the IIT Council meeting on October 6, 2015, that an annual investment of Rs. 250.00 crore with a view to promoting innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing. The projects should have collaboration between the academia and industry – within or outside India. The funding pattern of the projects selected would be 25% by Industry/Industries; 25% by participating Department/Ministry; and, 50% by MHRD. Director, IIT- Madras is the National Coordinator of the Scheme. The Apex Committee of the UAY in its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, sanctioned 92 proposals costing Rs. 282.65 crores. The overall picture of the 92 projects recommended for approval as per the fund sharing pattern is as under:

	<b>Total (Rs. in Lakh)</b>	<b>First Year (Rs. in Lakh)</b>
Total cost of the projects	28265.34	17645.46
<b>50% to be met by MHRD</b>	<b>14132.67</b>	<b>8822.73</b>
25% to be funded by participating Ministries	7066.34	4411.36

14.4 The Budget allocation under the Scheme “Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan” for the FY 2016-17 is Rs. 75.00 crore, out of which an amount of Rs. 52.50 crore has been released to the National

Coordinator to the Scheme i.e. IIT- Madras for implementation of the Projects. The Scheme “Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana” has already been approved by the SFC during its meeting held on 17.12.2016. A meeting to review the progress of projects sanctioned under the Scheme ‘Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana’ was held on 10<sup>th</sup>& 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. The PIs and the heads/In charge of Institutions participated in the meeting through video-conferencing. The National Coordinator of the Scheme has informed that 67 Industry partners have signed MoUs, 43 Industry Partners have released the fund amounting to Rs. 11.30 crore as on 25.1.2017. 24 Industry Partners are yet to release initial funds although MoUs have been signed. Further 6 participating Ministries have sanctioned the initial funds amounting to Rs. 361.49 lakhs (Rs.187.21 lakhs by Ministry of Steel; Rs. 11.15 lakhs by Ministry of Textiles and Rs. 19.17 lakhs by M/o Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation; Rs.29.19 lakhs by M/o Space, Rs. 55.63 lakhs by M/o Power and Rs. 59.14 lakh by M/o Road Transport & Highways.

**14.5 The Committee takes note of the two schemes being implemented by the Department. The Committee would like to point out that till date 40 institutes have adopted gram panchayats/villages under this scheme in their vicinity. The Committee recommends that adequate resources should be made available to the institutes to help solve the problems and improve living conditions and livelihoods in these villages. The Committee observes that these schemes should have inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for different professions and upgrade the capabilities responding to the development needs of rural India.**

## **XV. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **National Testing Service**

15.1 A new initiative to create a specialized independent, professional and specialist organization named National Testing Service for conducting all entrance examinations and fellowship tests for admission into higher educational institutions or for grant of fellowships and such other benefits is being considered in consultation with all stakeholders. The objectives of the NTS are-

- a. To conduct efficient, transparent and international standards tests in order to assess the competency of candidates for admission, and recruitment purposes.
- b. To undertake research on educational, professional and testing systems to identify gaps in the knowledge systems and take steps for bridging them.

- c. To identify experts and institutions in setting examination questions.
- d. To produce and disseminate information and research on education and professional development standards

15.2 In order to start its operation, the NTS would be provided a onetime grant of Rs. 50.00 crore (Recurring- Rs.10 crore and Non-recurring - Rs. 40 crore ) in 2017-18. From 2018-19 onwards, NTS would be funded by the exams fees of over 40 lakh students. Considering the exam fee paid by students in the entrance examinations currently being held, and the fees concession or exemption for SC/ STs /PWDs and girl candidates provided, average fees per student is estimated to be Rs. 500. Since approximately 40 lakh students would appear in the exams conducted by NTS each year, Rs 200 crore would be generated by NTS each year, which will be sufficient to meet its recurring and non- recurring expenditure. A CEE (Committee on Establishment Expenditure) Memorandum has been prepared and sent to the all concerned Ministry/Department for comments.

**15.3 The Committee appreciates the steps taken by the Department to create new specialized organization for conducting entrance examinations and fellowships for admission into higher educational institutions. The Committee believes that this testing agency would be able to meet its expenditure and conduct examinations in a free and fair manner. The Committee also hopes that this agency would make the examination reliable .**

**Project Vishwajeet:**

15.4 The IIT-Council in its 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 23.8.2016 at IIT-Delhi inter-alia approved in principle the project Vishwajeet which proposed specific interventions for strengthening the 7 IITs to help them to come up in to the Top 100 World University Rankings. The aim of the Project 'Vishwajeet' is to assist the IITs, especially the top (7) IITs namely IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Madras, Guwahati, IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Guwahati, to reach the top (100) Global University ranks (both THE and QS) by 2018 and the top (50) by 2020. The financial outlay for the Scheme is Rs. 20,018.19 Cr to be implemented for a 5 year period starting from 2017-18. Ministry of Finance vide O.M. dated 20.12.2016 has been requested to accord approval in-principal for the scheme; however, the approval from MoF is still awaited.

**15.4 The Committee takes note of the financial outlay for the scheme for improvement of ranking of the seven IITs. The Committee recommends that apart from providing funds the Department should also take steps like improving the infrastructure, increase research**

**in new fields , recruit international faculty and enroll more international student in these institutions. These steps would not only help in making our premier institutes compete with other world class institutes but also improve their world rankings.**

15.5 The Department apprised the Committee that a new scheme was launched 'National Initiative for Design Innovation' in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. Under this initiative, 20 new Design Innovation centers, one open Design School and a National Design Innovation Network (NDIN) linking together all these schools would be set up at an estimated cost of 240 crores. Under this scheme, 20 DIC's would be set up by co-locating them in existing publicly funded institutes of national repute like NITs, IITs, Centre and State Universities, to facilitate optimal utilization of the existing resources including faculty and land. Each of the DIC's would be provided a financial support to the extent of Rs. 10 crore. DIC's will be identified based on the geographical spread to cover length and breadth of the country and are expected to cover from science and technology to liberal arts. ODS would ensure maximum reach of design education and practice in the country through serious collaborative education programmes, and free sharing of its courseware through the internet. NDIN would be a network of design schools that works closely with other leading institutions of industry and academic, NGOs and government to further reach and access of design education to promote design innovation in all sectors, and to develop wide ranging collaborative projects between institutions.

**15.6 In view of its observations in the foregoing paras the Committee further adds that quality assurance in higher education has to become top of policy agenda and education has to prepare graduates with new skills, broad knowledge base and a range of competencies to enter a more complex and interdependent world. Quality is a multi-dimensional concept and several mechanisms for quality assurance and management at individual and institutional level are needed. The Committee further points out that system of accountability and accreditation with a robust regulatory mechanism are essential to process of sustaining and improving quality and developing performance indicators and benchmarks for assessing outcomes in higher education. The Committee accordingly, urges upon the Department of Higher Education to take all measures so as to ensure the quality in higher education matching will the global standards.**

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