



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

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FOURTH REPORT**

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN  
THE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FIFTH REPORT ON  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2015-2016 (DEMAND NO. 60)  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)**

*(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2016)*

*(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2016)*



**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi**  
**March, 2016/Phalguna, 1937 (Saka)**

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA  
RAJYA SABHA**

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

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN  
THE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FIFTH REPORT ON  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2015-2016 (DEMAND NO. 60)  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)**

*(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2016)*  
*(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 16<sup>th</sup> March, December, 2016)*



**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi  
March, 2016/Phalguna, 1937 (Saka)**

## CONTENTS

	PAGES
1. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE .....	(i)-(ii)
2. PREFACE.....	(iii)
3. ABBREVIATIONS.....	(iv)
4. REPORT.....	
Chapter-I - Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government .....	
Chapter -II - Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply.....	
Chapter-III - Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee...	
Chapter-IV - Recommendation/Observation in respect of which reply of the Government is still awaited.....	
4. OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE - AT A GLANCE	
5. *MINUTES.....	
6. *ANNEXURES.....	

---

\*Appended on printing stage

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

(Constituted w.e.f. 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015)

1. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya — *Chairman*

### **RAJYA SABHA**

2. Prof. Jogen Chowdhury
3. Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda
4. Shri Anubhav Mohanty
5. Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar
6. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad
7. Shri Basawaraj Patil
8. Shri Sharad Pawar
9. Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa
10. Shri Tiruchi Siva

### **LOK SABHA**

11. Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat
12. Shri Bijoy Chandra Barman
13. Shri C.R. Chaudhary
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. Shri P.R. Sundaram
30. Shri Ajay Tamta
31. Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher

## **SECRETARIAT**

Shri K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary

Shri Mahesh Tiwari, Director

Shri Vinay Shankar Singh, Joint Director

Shri R.K. Mecolt Singh, Assistant Director

## P R E F A C E

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 Seventy-fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Sixty- fifth Report on Demands for Grants (Demand No. 60) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education for the year 2015-16.

2. The Two Hundred Sixty- fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015 and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015. Replies of the Government to the recommendations/observations contained in the Report, were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 14.3.2016.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same at its meeting held on the 14.3.2016.

NEW DELHI;  
14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016  
*Phalgun 24, 1937 (Saka)*

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

## ABBREVIATIONS

1. AICTE : All India Council for Technical Education
2. CAGR: Compounded Annual Growth Rate
3. CFEI: Centrally Funded Educational Institutions
4. DEC: Distance Education Council
5. GER: Gross Enrolment Ratio
6. ICT: Information and Communication Technology
7. IIIT: Indian Institute of Information Technology
8. IIM : Indian Institute of Management
9. IISER: Indian Institute of Science Education and Research
10. IIPRS: Indian Institute of Intellectual Property Rights Studies
11. IIT: Indian Institute of Technology
12. IQAC: Internal Quality Assurance Cells
13. MDC: Model Degree College
14. MOOCS: Massive Online Open Courses
15. NIT: National Institute of Technology
16. NQRI: National Quality Renaissance Initiative
17. NSQR: National Skill Qualification Frameworks
18. ODL: Open and Distance Learning
19. PPP: Public Private Partnership
20. RUSA: Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan
21. TEQIP: Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme
22. T&T: National Mission on Teachers And Teaching
23. UGC: University Grants Commission

## **REPORT**

The Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Two hundred sixty-fifth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (Demand No. 60) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education for the year 2015-16.

2. Action Taken Notes received from the Government in respect of the recommendations contained in the 265<sup>th</sup> Report have been categorized as follows:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government – paras – 2.7, 12.2 and 14.1  
**(Chapter-I) Total – 3**
  
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply – paras -3.4, 4.5, 5.2, 6.16, 7.13, 8.6, 9.2 and 10.5  
**(Chapter-II) Total – 8**
  
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee – paras –2.5, 2.8, 6.7, 6.10, 6.14, 7.11, 7.12, 10.6, 11.2 and 14.2  
**(Chapter-III) Total – 10**
  
- (iv) Recommendation/Observation in respect of which reply of the Government is still awaited.  
**(Chapter-IV) Para - 13.4**  
**Total - 1**



## CHAPTER-I

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

#### BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

##### Recommendations/Observations

2.7 The Committee is, therefore, constrained to state that this unspent balances could be one of the factors for the declining budget allocations of the Department. The declining allocation and under-utilization of funds, it appears are turning into a vicious cycle. The Committee also noted that a large number of utilization certificates are outstanding in respect of **Grants/loans upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014** as indicated in the table below:

(₹ in crore)

No. of UCs outstanding in respect of Grants released upto 1.04.2014	Amount Involved	No. of UCs received during 01.04.2014 to 31.12.2014	Amount Involved in respect of UCs received	No. of UCs outstanding as on 31.12.2014	Amount Involved in Outstanding UCs
4259	15153.04	920	2002.27	3339	13150.77

##### Action Taken

Regarding the unspent balance it has been brought to the notice of the National Council for promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL) and National Council for promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL); two autonomous organizations whose matters are dealt with L-III Section of this Ministry and they are requested for timely utilization of funds allocated to them and have been informed that from year 2015-16, no unspent balance will be allowed to carry forward.

The UGC has taken efforts to bring down the unspent balances available with it at the end of the year. The Ministry is also taking care to release the final instalments to the UGC at an early date in the last quarter to ensure its utilization. There are no UCs outstanding from the UGC, under the UGC General, UGC NER and UGC Deemed University Heads, that were due to be furnished on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014.

**Utilization Certificates Outstanding in respect of Grants/ Loans released - Up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015.**

(₹ in crore)

No. of UCs Outstanding in respect of Grants released up to 1.04.2014	Amount Involved	No. of UCs received during 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2015	Amount Involved in respect of UCs received	No. of UCs outstanding as on 31.03.2015	Amount Involved in Outstanding UCs
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
<b>4259</b>	<b>15153 .04</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>14568.21</b>	<b>2395</b>	<b>584.83</b>

As may be seen from the table above, the No. of UCs outstanding and the Amount involved in respect of Outstanding UCs as on 31st March, 2015 is considerably lower than the figures as on 31st December, 2014.

**MASSIVE ONLINE OPEN COURSES (MOOCs)**

**Recommendations/Observations**

12.2 The Committee is also of the view that other technological interventions, such as the one based on MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) run by IITs can prove to be helpful especially in view of its likely immediate impact. The Committee reiterates that this aspect has to be given top priority. The other viable option likely to show immediate results would be to utilize the services of available teachers to the maximum by means of information technology like video-conferencing having a single teacher teaching the students of more than one IITs at the same time.

**Action Taken**

Once SWAYAM platform would be ready, the MOOCs would be delivered through it where the course (MOOCs) can be taken by a number of students simultaneously at various locations.

**CONSLUSION**

**Recommendations/Observations**

14.1 The Committee considers that development, expansion and growth of Higher Education, both in the public and private sector, especially in view of our demographic dividend in the form of young population available in the Country, which is at present highest in the world, requires highest attention of the Government. The youths of the Country deserves the best of education to realize these dreams. India has got all the ingredients to become an International Education Hub as in the IT Sector. The Committee recommends that paucity of funds should not be allowed to come

in the way of India acquiring the status of leader in this field. All the stakeholders be it government regulatory bodies like UGC/AICTE; Institutions of Higher Education and Research like IITs, IIMs, IISERs, NITs, IIITs; Private Sector, etc., should galvanize to achieve the dreams of our young population.

**Action Taken**

The observations of the Committee are accepted.

## **CHAPTER-II**

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

#### **GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO (GER)**

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

3.4 Committee's attention has been drawn by the Twelfth Plan Approach Paper which mentions that about 18 per cent of all Government education spending or 1.12 per cent of GDP be spent on higher education. This funding should be raised to 25 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively. However, the overall scenario regarding the declining allocations over the years as discussed in preceding paras shows altogether a different picture. This is also reflected in low achievement of GER which is taken as an indicator of the growth and development of Higher Education Sector in the country. As may be seen from the comparative figures, India ranks at the bottom regarding GER amongst those nations. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that to achieve higher GER and for making India an educational hub globally, not only more allocations are required but the utilization of allocations also has to be more efficient.

##### **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 National Income as early as possible. The Plan allocation for Education shows that there has been a phenomenal increase in the Plan Allocation during XI Plan vis-vis X Plan. As against a total actual expenditure of Rs. 58817.33 crore (for both the Departments) during X Plan, the actual allocation for the Ministry of HRD during XI Plan has gone up to Rs. 193570 crore, which is an increase of 3.3 times. Central XII Plan out of Ministry of HRD have also been increased vis-à-vis XI Plan Actual Expenditure of Rs. 1.78 lakh crore (for both the Department) during XI Plan, the Central Plan Outlay of Education during XII Plan has gone upto 4.54 lakh crore, which is an increase of 2.55 times. With the several initiatives taken by the Central Government in the recent past, it is expected that expenditure in Education Sector will be faster and the State Government will also come forward for investing in Education Sector, as the 6% of GDP has to come from Central as well as State Government. About 18 percent of all government education spending or about 1.12 percentage of GDP is spent on higher education today.

## **RASHTRIYA UCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA)**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

4.5 The Committee appreciated the launching of the RUSA and hopes that the objectives of the Scheme to help the State Universities and colleges to upgrade themselves both in terms of academics and physical infrastructure would go a long way in improving the standard of Higher Education in the country. The Committee, however, expresses its concern over declining allocation and reduction at RE stage to this scheme since its inception as well as under-utilization. The Committee, therefore, recommends that this scheme may be implemented more efficiently and enhanced allocations may be made for achieving desired results.

### **Action Taken**

**(RUSA)** - Funding to states under RUSA is made on the basis of critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans (SHEPs). These plans describe each state's strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education. Institutions are required to prepare "Institutional Development Plans" (IDP). These IDPs are then aggregated to form a SHEP. All funding under the RUSA is norm based and future grants are outcome dependent. Certain academic, administrative and governance reforms are a precondition for states to receive funding under RUSA. The prerequisites include Creation of a State Higher Education Council, Preparation of State Higher Education Plan, State funding commitment – share and timeliness, Filling faculty positions, Academic and Examination reforms, Governance and administrative reforms, Affiliation reforms etc. RUSA fund release is linked to willingness to implement these reforms.

RUSA implementation started with centre: state sharing pattern of 65:35 for general category states and 90:10 for special category states (North-Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) & UTs. The Central funding in General Category States has been modified to 60:40 and to 100% for UTs. This has also led to some delay in release of funds.

The total funds allocated and released under RUSA, with the approval of the Project Approval Board is Rs. 6540.86 Crore and Rs. 820.81 Crore respectively. The amount approved by the PAB has not been released in total on account of the fact that the fund released is in instalment and that approval to States and UTs in some components are conditional (e.g. requiring submission of complete DPRs, enactment of University Act etc.).

The BE during the financial year 2015-2016 is Rs.1155 Crores and funds to the extent of 43% of BE have already been released this year as on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. States have started submitting proposals under the entire gamut of components of RUSA. These are being considered expeditiously by the PAB. It is expected that the BE will be fully utilized this year.

## **NATIONAL MISSION ON TEACHERS AND TEACHING**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

5.2 The Committee feels that although quite delayed, this is a step in the right direction. The Committee would appreciate if an assessment of vacancies of teachers in all categories is made across the country on a priority basis. Similarly, a critical review of recruitment procedure along with eligibility criteria being followed by different university authorities also needs to be made in consultation with all the stakeholders. This should be followed by corrective measures as and where required by the concerned authorities. **The Committee also feels that teacher-training is one of the most important area which should be given due priority if quality education is to be imparted to the students. The Committee recommends that the Department should take immediate steps in this regard.**

### **Action Taken**

The Para 5.1 and 5.2 under para V; are about Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT). In Para 5.2, it has been mentioned that an assessment of vacancies of teachers in all categories on a priority basis be made across the country and a critical review of recruitment procedure along with eligibility criteria being followed by different university authorities be also made in consultation with all stakeholders.

In this regard, it is being mentioned that an assessment of the vacancies of teachers in school education is done on yearly basis in the District Information System for Education(DISE) Report of MHRD. Also, similar assessments are made in the Higher Education sector. All the concerned will be asked to compile data consisting of latest figures in respect of vacancies of teachers across the country and also to review recruitment procedure along with eligibility criteria being followed by different university authorities in consultation with all stakeholders.

## **IITs**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.16 The Committee observes that the country has done extremely well in the field of Information Technology, which has become an important tool in the development of manpower

for various areas of knowledge. The Indian Information Technology manpower has emerged as a strong and credible force which is now highly acclaimed by the global information technology/services industry. The Committee understands that in order to provide manpower of global standards in the information technology to cater to the needs of emerging areas of knowledge and services, such premier institutes in information technology are an essential prerequisite. There is also no denying the fact that the IT sector has a positive impact on our economy and governance which in turn has improved immensely every aspect of our society, be it education, health facilities, agricultural innovations or service sector. The Committee welcomes the objective behind the proposed institutions but feels concerned about certain visible gaps noticed in respect of the status of existing centrally funded IIITs, mode of setting up the new IIITs, their governance structure and likely impact on all the stakeholders that needs to be corrected urgently.

### **Action Taken**

The four Centrally Funded IIITs , namely, IIT Allahabad, IIIT&M Gwalior, IIIT D &M Kancheepuram and IIIT D&M Jabalpur have been brought under the ambit of IIIT Act, 2014 which came into effect from, 5.1.2015. Through this Act, these 04 CFIITs have been declared as Institutes of National importance.

As per the IIIT Act, 2014, the following shall be the authorities of the Institutes :- (i)Board of Governors (ii) Senate (iii) Finance Committee (iv) Building & Works Committee (v) Research Council and (vi) such authorities as may be declared by the Statutes .

The Board of Governors of each Institute shall be the Principal executive body of the Institute.

New IIITs-PPP :- The Scheme of Setting up 20 IIITs in Not for Profit Public-Private-Partnership Mode (N-PPP) was approved by the Union Cabinet on 7.12.2010. As on date approvals have been given for setting up of 19 new IIITs in PPP Mode. 12 IIITs have become functional with the commencement of Academic Session in 05 IIITs in 2013-14 ; in 03 IIITs in 2014-15 and in 5 IIITs in 2015-16 . IIITs-PPP are registered as Societies and are governed by a Memorandum of Associations and Rules of the IIIT Society. The Authorities of the Institute are the Board of Governors, Chairperson of the BoG, Director of the Institute, Senate , Research Council, Finance Committee ,Registrar of the Institute and such authorities as appointed or nominated by the Board .

The Board is to generally pursue and carry out the objects of the Society as set forth in the MoA and in doing so shall follow and implement the policy directions and guidelines laid down by the Government of India.

The Board exercises all administrative and financial powers of the Society including those vested or conferred on it by or under any statute subject, nevertheless in respect of expenditure, to such limitations as the Central Government, from time to time, impose.

There are ample representation of Industry Partners, State Government and Central Government on the BoGs of IIITs -PPP.

## **FACULTY POSITION**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

7.13 The Committee would like to have an evaluation report, if any, about the quality and standard of Ph.D holders across the country to understand why suitable candidates are difficult to find for the vacant positions. May be we need to reorient the entire system of evaluation of Ph.D and other research scholars.

### **Action Taken**

While no dedicated study for assessing the quality of Ph.D research in the Country has been undertaken, as informed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC Review Committee constituted by the Central Government in July, 2014 has observed that there is a Mushroom growth of sub-standard Ph.D degrees. The report of the Committee further observed that the race for obtaining Ph.D degree has now become a necessity in view of the minimum qualification for recruitment at entry level and requirements for promotion.

In order to serve national purpose of maintaining standards of Higher Education and to bring uniformity in the procedure of award of M.Phil. / Ph.D. Degree, UGC has framed UGC (Minimum Standard and Procedure for the awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation 2009. These Regulations have been notified in the Gazette of India dated 11th-17th July, 2009 and are available at UGC website [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in) . The UGC has written, on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, to the Vice-Chancellors of all Universities that it has come to the notice of the UGC that some Universities are hiring the services of the Supervisors who do not happen to be the regular teachers of the Universities or its affiliated Post Graduate (PG) colleges/ Institutes awarding the M.Phil/ Ph.D.



degree. It has observed that this practice is in violation of UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for award of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009. The UGC has advised the Vice Chancellors that Universities shall allocate the supervisor from amongst the regular faculty members in a department or its affiliated PG Colleges/ institutes depending on the number of students per faculty member, the available specialization among the faculty supervisors and the research interest of the student. It has been further clarified by the UGC that any Ph.D. / M.Phil. degree awarded by a University under the supervision of a Supervisor who is not a faculty member of the University or its affiliated PG Colleges/ Institutes would be in violation of UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for award of M.Phil./ Ph.D.) Regulations, 2009.

## **SCOLARSHIP**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

8.6 The Committee observes that all these Schemes are meant for providing an opportunity to students belonging to marginalized sections to get proper coaching so as to enable them to compete for higher studies and become eligible for teaching in higher educational institutions and for getting gainful employment in Central/States/private sector services. The objective behind all these Schemes is very laudable. The Committee can only emphasize that these schemes need to be administered more effectively to bring its benefit to the targeted beneficiaries. The Committee would like to have a status note on all these schemes.

### **Action Taken**

The Status of schemes being administered by AICTE is given below. The Scholarship Scheme for Girls (PRAGATI) is an endeavour by AICTE to promote technical education at Degree and Diploma levels to a girl child. The Scheme's aim is to provide financial assistance to girls for advancement and participation in Technical Education across India, in order to empower them with the Knowledge, skills and self confidence necessary to participate fully in development process of the Nation. Under this scheme, 4000 girl children will be benefited every year with the restriction that only one girl child per family where family income is less than Rs. 6 lakhs/annum will be considered. The candidates are selected on merit at the qualifying examination. The scheme envisages to provide Rs.30, 000/- or tuition fees or at actual whichever is less and Rs.2000 per month for 10 months as a contingency allowance in a year until the duration of the course. The student should be admitted to a AICTE approved Technical

Institution's/University Department Imparting Technical Education in Diploma/Undergraduate degree level in the 1<sup>st</sup> year. The numbers of beneficiaries for 2014-15 are 740 and the amount disbursed towards scholarship is Rs.252.28 Lakhs.

In addition, the Council also offers relaxation of Rs.1.5 Lakhs in processing fee for setting up new Technical Institution offering Technical Program at Degree/Diploma/PG Diploma & PG level exclusively for women, the number of such institutions exclusively for women is shown in **Annexure-1.**

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched a Scholarship on 11.11.2014 named "SAKSHAM" for differently abled students to provide financial assistances to encourage/promote technical education at Degree and Diploma levels to differently abled students across India. In order to empower them with the knowledge, skills and self confidence necessary to participate fully in development process of the Nation. The Scheme support 1,000 differently – abled students to pursue technical education in an year. The amount of Scholarship is tuition fee of Rs. 30,000/- or at actual whichever is less and Rs. 2000 per month for 10 months as a contingency allowance in a year until the duration of the course. This scholarship is for those differently abled students whose family income is less than Rs 6 lakh per annum. The candidates are selected on merit at the qualifying examination.

The students should be admitted to a AICTE approved Technical Institution's/University Department imparting Technical Education in Diploma/Undergraduate degree level in the 1<sup>st</sup> year through centralized admission process of the State/Central Government. The number of beneficiaries for the scheme for 2015-16 are 38 and the amount disbursed is Rs.10.38 Lakhs.

UGC fellowships and scholarships are awarded at the undergraduate and postgraduate level and also comprise research fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships and research awards. The objective of these awards is to promote research and excellence along with addressing concerns of access and equity. The status of UGC fellowships and scholarships as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 is at

**Annexure 2.**

The UGC has reported that the DBT has been started under its following schemes viz. (i) Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)/ Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) in Science, Humanities and Social Sciences; (ii) Post Doctoral Fellowship for Women; (iii) Emeritus Fellowship; (iv) Postgraduate (PG) scholarship for university rank holders; (v) Swami Vivekanand Single Girl Child Scholarship for Research in Social Sciences; (vi) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan post-doctoral fellowship in humanities

and social sciences; (vii) Dr. D.S. Kothari post-doctoral fellowship Research Fellowship in science for meritorious students (viii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes (SC) candidates; (ix) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates; (x) Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students; (xi) National Fellowship for students of Other Backward Classes (OBCs); (xii) Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates; (xiii) PG scholarship for professional courses for SC/ST candidates; (xiv) PG Indira Gandhi scholarship for single girl child; (xv) Basic Scientific Research (BSR) fellowship; and (xvi) Ishan Uday special scholarship scheme for North Eastern Region.

The UGC has reported that it is taking efforts to implement DBT scheme for fellowship/ scholarship selections undertaken in the past and also in the remaining schemes.

Aadhar is not mandatory for the disbursement of scholarship, however, where Aadhar seeded bank account is provided, the scholarships/fellowships are disbursed through Aadhar Payment Bridge (APB). The UGC has reported that Rs. 6.86 crores have been disbursed till date under its fellowship/ scholarship schemes through the APB.

## **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

9.2 The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Department to enhance the skill and employability of the youth. The Committee pointed out that in order to leverage the demographic dividend that India enjoys, we need to ensure that our youth are empowered with right skills to meet the challenges of the knowledge based economy. The Committee recommends that some strategies for the skill development like skills requirement assessment, Diploma Education, lateral entry from ITIs to Diploma programmes, Industrial training finishing schools and Special Manpower Development Programme should be taken up. The Committee points out this area should be accorded the highest priority as it will impact our development strategies in other areas as well. Skill Development, in fact is not confined to one Ministry/Department; many of them including State Governments and Private Sector would be involved. Although we have a separate Ministry for coordination in this regard, the Committee hopes that such schemes are implemented with proper synergy/coordination without any duplication of efforts/ resources.

## **Action Taken**

The University Grants Commission is implementing three schemes namely; Community Colleges (CC), B.Voc. degree programme and DeenDayalUpadhyay KAUSHAL Kendras for imparting skill based vocational courses at certificate, diploma, advanced diploma degree and masters as well as research level. The UGC has framed the guidelines for curricular aspects, assessment criteria and credit system for skill based vocational system through which road to understanding is paved with the clearly prescribed assessment criteria and requirements of skills competency for specific certificate, diploma or degree level programmes. It is also indicated that the skill component of the programmes will be assessed by the concerned sector skills council and the same will be certified for being qualified if found fit towards skills abilities this will lead to requisite skill credits. The general education component is being assessed as per the university / collegiate education norms. The courses offered under UGC schemes of Community Colleges / B.Voc degree programme / DDU KAUSHAL Kendras have provision for multiple entry and exit options. The students who have certificate / diploma / advanced diploma etc awarded by a recognized university / board corresponding to skill competency of NSQF level 4 / 5 / or 6 have the option for lateral entry to these programmes to next higher level as per national Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) providing vertical mobility.

The knowledge-Skill mixed programmes of different durations under NSQF are available in CC / B.Voc / KAUSHAL institutions depending on the need of industry leading to a certification at various levels of NSQF (4-10) starting from certificate to research degree Level. This would enable the graduates completing B.Voc. to make a meaningful participation in accelerating India's economy by gaining appropriate employment, becoming entrepreneurs and creating appropriate knowledge. The private / self financing institutions recognized by UGC can also run such programmes without financial support from UGC.

The Ministry has put up in place institutional arrangement for coordinating skill development with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The ITI courses may, if the Govt. feel fit, be declared equivalent to class 10 and may be aligned to NSQF Level 2 for entry to polytechnic programmes of three years which may further be aligned to NSQF level 3, 4 and 5 corresponding to first year, second year and third year of diploma courses

offered by polytechnics enabling the vertical mobility through lateral entry to direct second year of B.Voc degree programme.

In order to inculcate employable skills among students, the AICTE has implemented the following Schemes:

(1) SAMVAY

Under National Skill Qualification Frame (NSQF) Skill Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of youth (SAMVAY) to promote lateral and vertical mobility of students has been made. The Credit Framework allows the horizontal and vertical mobility of students through the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).

(2) Employability Enhancement Training Programme (EETP)

AICTE is implementing Employability Enhancement Training Programme (earlier Finishing Schools) with a vision to enhance employment amongst fresh engineering graduates, imparting business and soft skills for sustained performance, career success and to meet growing industry demand. Under the scheme Under Graduate Engineering students of AICTE approved Colleges are being trained in around 26 BSNL Training Centres on state of art Telecom equipment for which AICTE has allotted seats. First batch of 2014-15 students have completed training under the Silver Certificate, whereas students admitted in 2013-14 have completed and are enrolled for Platinum Certificate.

(3) National Employability Enhancement Mission (NEEM):

AICTE is implementing National Employability Enhancement Mission (NEEM) with the objective to offer on the job practical training to enhance employability of a person either pursuing his or her graduation / diploma in any technical or non-technical stream or have discontinued studies of degree or diploma course to increase their employability. AICTE has also issued notification in this regard for registration of NEEM Agent and eligibility criteria on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 to place at least 10,000 students per year in the registered companies or registered industries for the purpose of providing training under the objective of NEEM. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is having All India Board of Under-Graduate/Post-Graduate Education. The new programmes/ courses are being added from time to time based on the recommendations of these Boards.

## **OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING**

10.5 The Committee is also aware of the fact that the primary mandate of IGNOU is introduction and promotion of Open University and distance education systems. However, there are several provisions that do not restrain the University from using classroom engagement as a means to fulfil its mandate. The Committee has been informed that there are as many as 164 programmes in the face-to-face mode on IGNOU campus and 20 at partner institutions across the country. The Committee would like to point out that the Scheme of Community Colleges that was launched in July, 2009, had run for about two years only and has since been scrapped. It was too short a time to take a final view about the status of the Scheme, especially in view the level of pre-introduction exercise undertaken by the University. The rational approach would have been to suggest measures for strengthening the Scheme. The Committee strongly feels that the High Powered Committee had nowhere recommended scrapping the Scheme; instead, it had recommended restructuring of the Scheme by having an appropriate statutory mechanism for the Scheme along with certain other modifications. The only restriction placed by the Committee was that no new colleges should be admitted to the Scheme of Community Colleges till such restructuring.

### **Action Taken**

The Scheme of the Community College (CCs) of IGNOU was started during the year 2009. 620 Community Colleges across the country were registered under the Community College Scheme of IGNOU through MoUs. 88 out of these CCs were deregistered in 2011 as they were inactive. Out of the remaining 532 CCs, 253 were the active CCs with students enrolled in 1568 programmes having 12,639 courses on offer.

2. A lot of complaints were filed by the various stake holders in the country regarding implementation of the Community College of IGNOU. Accordingly, IGNOU constituted a High Power Committee to look into the details and issues regarding the Community College Scheme and other similarly placed schemes of IGNOU. The High Power Committee accordingly submitted its report to the University which was discussed in the 113<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Management (BOM) of IGNOU held on 31.05.2012 and resolved that Community College/Convergence Scheme be subjected to a thorough time-bound review. Till then all actions be taken to be kept in

abeyance. The Vice-Chancellor may constitute the review Committee(s) to complete the task in six months and till then all such schemes be kept in abeyance.

3. In the 117<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BOM of IGNOU held on 05.01.2013, the Board resolved to take a lenient view for issuance of certificates to a select category of students enrolled and complete the programme under Community College Scheme of the university under up to January, 2012.

4. IGNOU in its 118<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BOM held on 15.06.2014, on the basis of the finding of the Review Committee, decided to discontinue the existing Community College Scheme. The BOM also recommended for introduction of a new Community College Scheme through a separated Statute/Ordinance.

5. Since there was an environment of unrest amongst students who have enrolled and completed their programmes under Community College Scheme of IGNOU (face-to-face mode) through MoUs/MoA, the Ministry intervened keeping the interest of the students in forefront and accordingly requested to IGNOU to do the following to take care of the future of the students and complete the necessary action so that the students enrolled up to January, 2012 under community College Scheme immediately appear for the examination and the successful candidates receive their Degree/Diploma/Certificates:

- (i) To declare result and complete the process of issuing of certificates to all the students for whom the BOM of IGNOU resolved in its 117<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 05.01.2013.
- (ii) As resolved in the 118<sup>th</sup> BOM meeting held on 15.06.2013, to notify the examination schedule for those students who have already completed their courses/programmes and are waiting to appear for the examinations.
- (iii) Frame a scheme for skill development with certification with an annual intake capacity of five lakh students that is compliant with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).

6. IGNOU vide its letter dated 14.10.2014 has informed that the Screening Committee constituted by the BOM of the university recommended for declaration of result of 146 Community College (118<sup>th</sup> BOM) and subsequently added 19 colleges (121<sup>st</sup> BOM). Out of the 59,860 students appeared the examination conducted by Community Colleges, 39,012 students successfully completed the programme and their grade card and provisional certificates have already been issued by the university.

7. A D.O. letter dated 07.11.2014 from the Ministry has been issued to the Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU to expedite the whole process of moderation of question papers and results involving UGC and AICTE in the areas where IGNOU has no domain knowledge and subject expertise so

that the left out students could write their examinations and in-turn the results are declared by the university and finally this long pending issue is closed once for all.

8. In addition to above for issuance of Degrees/certificates/Diplomas to defence and paramilitary forces, the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force had signed MoUs between 2009 and 2011 with IGNOU for recognizing the in-service training conducted at their respective training centres for the award of certificates, diplomas and associate degrees by IGNOU. Accordingly, 4.56 lakh jawans and 49,634 airmen were enrolled in the scheme, named Gyandeeep for Army and Akashdeep for Air Force respectively. Naval officers were not allowed to register for the scheme as IGNOU unilaterally stopped the scheme in 2012.

9. For expediting and resolving the pending issues of grade cards and provisional certificates of Air Force and Army personnel, a meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 in the Chamber of Hon'ble HRM with the Official of IGNOU and Army in the matter. As follow up to the above mentioned meeting of Hon'ble HRM in the matter, Prof.Nageshwar Rao, VC (I/c) vide his letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 has informed that out of 4.56 lakhs Army Personnel who were enrolled under Gyandeeep Scheme, 2,78,807 Certificate/Diplomas/Degrees have already been awarded to Army personnels. Further IGNOU has already awarded 49,615 Certificate/Diplomas/Degree to the Air Force Personnel.

10. As regard the remaining Certificate/Diplomas/Degrees, he has informed that the same shall be done upon the receipt of the details on the marks data from Indian Army side for which Army has informed to IGNOU that they may take 2-3 months time.



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

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION**

**Recommendations/Observations**

2.5 The Committee observes that there is a huge gap between the projected demands and actual allocations during the Twelfth Plan period i.e. 2012-17, and with only two years left, it would not be possible to cover this gap. Moreover, the reduced allocation of funds does not match with the objectives of Twelfth Plan regarding expansion and growth of Higher Education Sector in the Country and that this is also in contrast with the main objective of the improvement of access alongwith equity and excellence in Higher Education. The allocation needs to be enhanced.

**Action Taken**

The allocation of budget for Central Government Departments have been decided by the Ministry of Finance on the basis of expenditure trend and the absorptive capacity, existing commitments, available fiscal resource position, available fiscal space and demand of various Department and sharing pattern between the Central Government and State Government as applicable under the schemes.

**Recommendations/Observations**

2.8 The Committee, in view of the declining allocations combined with underutilization of budget allocations, expresses its serious concerns and recommends that the Department should reconsider/review its overall mechanism in so far as the implementation of various schemes is concerned and bring in new ideas. This is high time to show high achievements in the growth/development of Higher Education Sector, if India were to compete with advanced Countries in this regard. We have to achieve equity, access and excellence in Higher Education to overcome the existing inequality prevailing in the Country as well as to bridge the urban/rural divide. The Committee, however, also recommends to the Government to take seriously the growth and development of this sector and increase budgetary allocations keeping them closer to the Twelfth Plan projections made by the Department of Higher Education as they are serving the needs of the society.

## **Action Taken**

Various schemes and programmes being implemented in HE Bureau and the UGC are constantly reviewed to ensure that the envisaged outcomes are achieved along with judicious utilization of funds.

Moreover, the reduction is due to the fact that there has been a substantial enhancement of direct devolution to the State Government. Government of India has rationalized the Scheme provisions to ensure that total outlays for the individual schemes do not suffer.

## **Comments of the Committee (Paras 2.5 & 2.8)**

**The Committee does not agree with the reply of the Department. The Committee feels that Department has not been spending the allocated amount on the schemes launched by them. The underutilization of the funds allocated to the Department has led to undermining the projected needs of the Higher Education Sector, leading to decrease in the budgetary allocation for the Department. The Committee recommends that the Department should implement the various schemes earnestly. The Committee also acknowledge that now the Government has substantially enhanced the direct devolution to the state governments so that individual schemes do not suffer on account of funds constraints. Here it becomes imperative upon the Department to actively pursue with the State Governments for proper utilization of funds and periodically get the feedback in respect of those schemes. Committee would like to apprised of the mechanism how the funds are allocated and utilized by the mode of direct devolution to the State Governments and in what manner the Central Government Department supervises the progress of the scheme.**

## **SETTING UP OF NEW IITs, IIMs, IISERs, NITs and IIITs**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.7 The Committee notes with serious concern the delay in shifting of the new IITs to their own buildings. As informed, the acquisition of lands for new IITs is at various stages and some of these lands are likely to be required at an early date. The Committee is of the view that since the brand name of IITs carries international standards and this standard and brand name may be maintained at any cost. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all out efforts be made to

expedite the land acquisition and construction of new buildings so that academic activities could be started and carried out in organized and focussed manner.

### **Action Taken**

The Scheme for establishment of the 8 new IITs was approved by the Union Cabinet on 17.07.2008. There has been delays in handing over of land by the respective State Governments, which is evident from the fact that three of the 8 new IITs got the land during first quarter of 2011, while two of them got it as late as the middle of 2012. As a result, construction of the campuses was delayed, which ultimately delayed their shifting to permanent campuses.

However, as of now, IIT-Patna has shifted into its Permanent Campus on 25.07.2015. IIT-Gandhinagar, IIT-Bhubaneswar, IIT-Mandi, and IIT-Hyderabad have partially shifted into its permanent campus whereas the construction of permanent campus in respect of remaining three IITs namely IIT- Jodhpur, IIT-Indore and IIT-Ropar are in full swing. The likely dates by which these three Institutes will shift to their permanent campuses are September, 2016 March, 2016 and April, 2017 respectively.

The delay in construction of permanent campus was primarily due to delayed handing over of land by the respective State Governments, as well as factors like environmental clearances, agitation by local farmers etc.

The Ministry has been monitoring the progress of the new IITs at all levels through regular meetings, video conferencing and visits to the Institutes. In order to ensure that such delays do not recur during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan Period, especially in case of the five new IITs(Jammu, Chattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala) as announced during Budget, 2014-15, a principled stand has been taken to start the academic session only in respect of those institutes whose permanent and temporary sites have been identified and approved by the competent authority.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee appreciates the steps taken up by the Ministry in shifting the IITs into their permanent campuses. The Committee re-iterates that since IITs are one of the premier institutions of the Country, the Ministry should continue to press the concerned authorities to expedite the process of shifting of IITs to permanent campuses from partially shifted condition. The Committee also recommends that sites for five new IITs announced in 2014-15 should be taken up on priority basis and land should be acquired to start the academic section of these institutions and set up their campuses at the earliest.**

## **IIM**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.10 The Committee, like in the case of IITs reiterates its recommendations that all out steps be taken on priority basis to acquire land for these institutes of higher learning so that they start functioning from their campuses at the earliest.

### **Action Taken**

The land for permanent campus in respect of RGIIM Shillong, IIM Rohtak, IIM Trichy, IIM Kashipur and IIM Udaipur is under the possession of the Institutes and construction is already going on. All these Institutes are in the advanced stage of construction of permanent campus and are expected to shift to their permanent campuses by the year 2016-17. The land for IIM Raipur has also been handed over to the Institute and the work is expected to be awarded soon. The land for IIM Ranchi has been identified by the State Government of Jharkhand and a Site Selection Committee will soon visit the area to assess the suitability of the land for the Institute. So far as the land for the new IIMs opened in 2015-16 is concerned, the Governments of the States concerned have already offered land and physical handing over of these lands will take some time.

## **IISERs**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

6.14 The Committee while welcoming the setting up of new IISERs expresses its concern on the delay in construction of permanent campuses where they would shift. The Committee observed that these IISERs have been envisaged not only as institutes of higher education but also to carry out research in various fields which would bring obvious benefits to the country. Any delay, therefore, would impact the research activities adversely as it requires not only facilities like labs, libraries and other related infrastructure but also an appropriate ambience to do so. The Committee notes that the Department of Higher Education and the Government should work for this purpose with synergy to get best of the results.

## **Action Taken**

The delay in construction of permanent campus of the IISERs was mainly on account of delay in handing over of land by the State Governments concerned. However, the construction of permanent campus of the IISERs is expected to be completed by the 12<sup>th</sup> plan period except for IISER, TVM, which is expected to be completed by 2018-19. Three IISERs, namely IISER Bhopal, IISER Pune and IISER Mohali have shifted to their own campus, while IISER Kolkata has shifted most of its operations to its own campus and is expected to fully shift to its campus by the next academic year 2016-17. Meanwhile, the approval of Cabinet has also been obtained for the revised cost estimates of the five IISERs at Rs.4788 crore.

## **Comments of the Committee (Paras 6.10 and 6.14)**

**The Committee is not happy with the reply of Government regarding the setting up of new IIMs and IISERs. The Committee would like to point out that both IIMs and IISERs are world renowned institutions and the country's best minds study in these institutions. The Committee feels that the Department would take up the setting of these new institutions exigently and see that delay does not adversely affect the teaching, research and other facilities at these Institutions. The Committee is also of the view that the intake capacity of most of the old institutions remains stagnant. The expansion of IITs and IIMs is very important for the development of these institutions. The Committee hopes that IITs and IIMs will enhance the seats as well as expand the faculty in periodical basis and accommodate more students.**

## **FACULTY POSITION**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

7.11 The Committee has been voicing its concern from time to time on the acute shortage of faculty in higher educational institutions across the country. 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 foreseen in the near future. The Committee points out that the availability of adequate and qualified faculty is a pre-requisite for quality

education. The Committee appreciates the steps taken by the Department like increase in the retirement age up to 65 years, improvement of salary structures, etc. **The Committee feels that there can be only three possibilities, either our young students are not attracted towards the teaching profession or the recruitment process is a prolonged involving too many procedural formalities or the quality of candidates is not upto the required level. In either case, the Department being the nodal authority for higher education sector has to take a proactive role so as to expedite the filling up of the existing vacancies.**

### **Action Taken**

In IIMs, the age of retirement of faculty is already 65 years. The salary structure of IIMs is also one of the best amongst the Government academic institutions. The quality of education in IIMs is one of the best in the country and they constantly endeavour to keep their quality of education and improve it.

Keeping in mind the fact that the field of higher education is currently facing an acute shortage of teachers at all levels and also being aware of the decision of the central government to expand the base of college and university education significantly throughout the country, the UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standard in Higher Education, 2010 has extended the age of superannuation to 65 years for teachers in University and College across the country.

Ministry of Human Resource Development and University Grants Commission have repeatedly written to Central Universities to expedite filling of vacancies of teachers and are continuously monitoring the progress. The progress has also been discussed in the Conference of Vice-Chancellors of the Central Universities held on 4th – 5th February, 2015 and Visitor's Conference on 4th -6th November, 2015. Visitor's nominees have also been provided to all Central Universities for Selection Committees for teachers, to expedite the selection process.

**The UGC has allowed the University to re-employ superannuated teachers for a maximum period of five years, i.e. up to 70 years against sanctioned vacant post, if such posts are not filled up by regular candidates.**

Intensive efforts are being made to attract talented, bright and qualified young men and women to college and University jobs. The entry point incentives have been substantially increased. The

UGC Regulations, 2010 has prescribed norms for improvement in service conditions for the new entrant, in terms of better working and leave conditions, career advancement prospects, retirement benefits etc.

The Central Government has also recommended the constitution of the UGC pay review committee to the Department of Expenditure.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee has repeatedly been voicing its concern on the shortage of faculty in higher educational institutions in the country. The Committee notes the re-employment of teachers for a period of five years till the age of 70 years as a temporary measure, if such posts are not filled up by regular candidates. The shortage of faculty in the higher educational institutes is also affecting the quality of education being imparted in these institutions. The Committee would like to highlight that this perennial shortage of faculty can only be addressed if there is an increase in number of research fellowships and also improvement in service condition and increase in remuneration for new entrants. The Committee recommends that the Government needs to take urgent steps to address this issue within a definite time frame and also direct the UGC to submit a report on this matter.**

### **Recommendations/Observations**

7.12 The Committee also feels that to tackle the shortage of faculty in the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) there should be an increase in the number of research fellowships and new schemes for teaching assistantship should be introduced. The Committee further points out that there should be appropriate linkages with S&T institutions, joint appointment of teachers and researchers as faculty and promotions should be linked with performance. The Committee further adds that the Department should take steps to enhance the prestige of the teaching profession. The Committee is also of the view that in case the stricter norms for the appointment of faculty is coming in the way then UGC and other regulatory bodies should review them on regular basis and bring in necessary changes so as to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest.

### **Action Taken**

The Government has appointed a Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Arun Nigavekar, former Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) to examine the

issues related to attracting and retaining talented and quality manpower in the teaching profession. The Committee has following members, viz., Shri Sumit Bose, former Secretary, Government of India, Prof. Sunil Gupta, former Vice-Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Prof.B. Thimme Gowda, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University, Prof. Ashwini Kumar Mohapatra, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Shri S.S.Sandhu, Joint Secretary, MHRD as Member-Convener. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are, namely; (i) evaluation of the Academic Performance Indicator(API) Scheme as regards the entry point and Career Advancement of Teachers by taking into account its criticism and suggest suitable improvements/alternatives, (ii) evaluation of Ph.D-NET qualifications for entry of teachers and to accordingly suggest a policy for selections and (iii) consideration of the problems and issues related to ad-hoc and contractual appointments in Central Universities and recommendations to resolve them. The Committee has already held regional level consultations and is likely to submit its report in the first week of January, 2016.

The Central Government has also recommended the constitution of the UGC pay review committee to the Department of Expenditure.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee appreciates the appointment of a Committee to examine the issues related to attracting and retaining talented and quality manpower in teaching profession. The Committee would further like to point out that attracting and retaining talented people to the teaching profession is the key to increase the quality of education being imparted in Higher Education Institutions. The Committee also appreciates the recommendation of the Government for the constitution of the UGC pay review Committee, which is a right step for attracting quality manpower to the teaching profession. However, the Committee feels that the Government should pursue the matter with the Department of Expenditure for expediting the matter.**

### **OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

10.6 The Committee reiterates its recommendations to give DEC a statutory status to regulate distance learning in the country. The present arrangement of transferring DEC with UGC is neither



practicable nor legally tenable. Therefore, the DECI Bill should be brought before Parliament as soon as possible.

### **Action Taken**

The draft Bill for the creation of an independent statutory regulatory authority to regulate open and distance learning (ODL) education in higher Education System in the country is under consideration in the Ministry.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry. The Committee feels that Open and Distance Learning (ODL) education system is catering to a large section of the Country and a regulatory body should be there to oversee ODL education system. The Committee again reiterates that the Distance Education Council of India (DECI) Bill should be brought before Parliament without loosing further time.**

### **STRENGTHENING PRIVATE TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY**

11.2 The Committee is concerned about the issues such as quality of faculty and its shortage in general and in private universities/institutions in particular. Last year, the Committee had recommended that an assessment may be made about the quality of faculty and its positions in private universities and institutions. However, the Committee is at loss to find that no action has been taken in this regard so far. The only feedback made available to the Committee is that UGC conducted a comprehensive review of 124 Deemed Universities in 2009 which included availability of faculty and its quality. It was found that the faculty was inadequate in 17 Deemed to be Universities and needed further augmentation in 8 Universities. No status about the follow-up action taken has been shared with the Committee. With regard to private Universities, the Committee has been given to understand that out of 53 such universities 17 were inspected by the Expert Committees of UGC and faculty status was part of this exercise. No specific information about the availability of faculty has been given. With regard to technical institutions, the Committee has been simply informed that faculty norms are verified at the time of establishment of new institutions and thereafter, every year institutions are required to maintain the faculty norms on a self disclosure basis on the AICTE portal. The Committee, therefore, stresses that apart from other parameters which have been required faculty position should be given more priority and that

communication should be sent to States in this regard. The existing mechanism for this purpose, the Committee feels, needs revisiting for making it more regular and effective leaving little scope for corruption/ favouritism.

#### **Action Taken**

The Institutional faculty data for the last three years is enclosed herewith as per **Annexure -3 of the ATN(Annexure of this Report)**

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

**The Committee notes the faculty position as provided by the Department. The Committee, prime concern is quality of the faculty is yet to be addressed. The Committee observes that the reply of the Department is incomplete in as much as it does not apprise the Committee of the steps taken/being taken by them for improving the existing mechanism for eliminating the favouritism and corruption in the process of selection of faculty. The Committee strongly feels unless strong measures are taken the menace would continue.**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

**14.2 There are large number of complaints about working of our Regulatory bodies in higher education, particularly UGC and AICTE, which needs to be looked into seriously. They sometimes in some cases fail to ensure the probity and transparency expected from them. As a result, the people voice about sub-standard institutions getting necessary approval. This, the Committee feels, is the root cause for declining standards in Higher Education. The Committee, therefore, emphasizes the need for improving the working of such bodies by making them more responsive, accessible and transparent.**

#### **Action Taken**

Complaints to be received and registered (in case of Institution: only against AICTE approved institutions) for violation of prescribed norms and standards of AICTE. The complainants are requested to confirm genuineness of the signature and address and also providing supporting evidences in support of allegations within stipulated time. All the verified complaints are placed before the Standing Complaint Scrutiny Committee (SCSC) headed by Chief Justice (Retd.) of a High Court, constituted by the Competent Authority of AICTE for scrutiny / examination. The recommendations of SCSC along with the all relevant documents are sent to

concerned bureau of AICTE for further processing the complaint. The final decision on the complaint is taken by the SCSC after receipt of the necessary Action Taken Report (ATR) / reply from the concerned bureau and after that necessary approval of competent authority is taken accordingly. As per CVC guidelines anonymous / pseudonymous complaints are not dealt in Complaint Cell.

Grievances relating to UGC and received through the online grievance redressal portal [pgportal.gov.in](http://pgportal.gov.in) are being monitored rigorously. The guidelines of the CVC regarding complaints related to the UGC are being strictly adhered. To make the functioning of the UGC more transparent, 16 scholarship schemes have been on boarded the DBT platform. The UGC is taking up e-governance measures to make all its schemes online.

#### **Comments of the Committee (Para 14.2)**

**The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Department. The Committee points out that UGC, AICTE, NAAC and NAB are regulatory bodies dealing with Higher Education in the Country, and there seems to be lack of transparency in these Institutions, Higher Education in suffering in the Country. The Committee would also like to point out that complaint related to these regulatory bodies should not just be monitored but action should also be taken to address these concerns. The Committee appreciates the online redressal portal devised by the UGC and other regulatory bodies like AICTE, etc. should adopt such best practices not only for grievances against AICTE approved Institutions but those against AICTE itself.**

## **CHAPTER-IV**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED STRENGTHENING OF UGC AND AICTE**

#### **Recommendations/Observations**

13.4 The Committee takes this opportunity to observe that for quite some time, increasing number of students have been opting for technical and professional courses for future employability thus leaving the fields of social sciences and humanities neglected. The Committee would appreciate if steps are initiated to attract students to the fields of social sciences and humanities also as these subjects address vital social issues and public policies. Further, the Committee would like the Department to give more focus to the three language formula in the Education System as it would also strengthen the concept of National integration in our society.

#### **Action Taken**

An All India Council for Technical Education Review Committee to restructure and strengthen the Technical Education sector was constituted vide MHRD Note F.No.1-19/2014-TS-II dated 22.10.2014 and the Committee has since submitted its report to the MHRD in April 2015.

The comments on the report had been invited from the stakeholders and the report of the Committee is under consideration of the Ministry.

The Government had constituted a Review Committee headed by Dr. Hari Gautam, former Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) to review the working of the UGC. The Committee has submitted its report.

The report is being examined, in its entirety, in consultation with the Niti Aayog.

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

**The Committee wishes that findings of the said two Committee, and action taken thereon be furnished to this Committee.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS AT A GLANCE**

### **BUDGETARY ALLOCATION**

The Committee does not agree with the reply of the Department. The Committee feels that Department has not been spending the allocated amount on the schemes launched by them. The underutilization of the funds allocated to the Department has led to undermining the projected needs of the Higher Education Sector, leading to decrease in the budgetary allocation for the Department. The Committee recommends that the Department should implement the various schemes earnestly. The Committee also acknowledge that now the Government has substantially enhanced the direct devolution to the state governments so that individual schemes do not suffer on account of funds constraints. Here it becomes imperative upon the Department to actively pursue with the State Governments for proper utilization of funds and periodically get the feedback in respect of those schemes. Committee would like to apprised of the mechanism how the funds are allocated and utilized by the mode of direct devolution to the State Governments and in what manner the Central Government Department supervises the progress of the scheme. (Paras 2.5 & 2.8)

### **SETTING UP OF NEW IITs, IIMs, IISERs, NITs and IIITs**

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

The Committee appreciates the steps taken up by the Ministry in shifting the IITs into their permanent campuses. The Committee re-iterates that since IITs are one of the premier institutions of the Country, the Ministry should continue to press the concerned authorities to expedite the process of shifting of IITs to permanent campuses from partially shifted condition. The Committee also recommends that sites for five new IITs announced in 2014-15 should be taken up on priority basis and land should be acquired to start the academic section of these institutions and set up their campuses at the earliest.

(Para 6.7)

## **IIM**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee is not happy with the reply of Government regarding the setting up of new IIMs and IISERs. The Committee would like to point out that both IIMs and IISERs are world renowned institutions and the country's best minds study in these institutions. The Committee feels that the Department would take up the setting of these new institutions exigently and see that delay does not adversely affect the teaching, research and other facilities at these Institutions. The Committee is also of the view that the intake capacity of most of the old institutions remains stagnant. The expansion of IITs and IIMs is very important for the development of these institutions. The Committee hopes that IITs and IIMs will enhance the seats as well as expand the faculty in periodical basis and accommodate more students. (Paras 6.10 and 6.14)

## **FACULTY POSITION**

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee has repeatedly been voicing its concern on the shortage of faculty in higher educational institutions in the country. The Committee notes the re-employment of teachers for a period of five years till the age of 70 years as a temporary measure, if such posts are not filled up by regular candidates. The shortage of faculty in the higher educational institutes is also affecting the quality of education being imparted in these institutions. The Committee would like to highlight that this perennial shortage of faculty can only be addressed if there is an increase in number of research fellowships and also improvement in service condition and increase in remuneration for new entrants. The Committee recommends that the Government needs to take urgent steps to address this issue within a definite time frame and also direct the UGC to submit a report on this matter.

(Para 7.11)

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee appreciates the appointment of a Committee to examine the issues related to attracting and retaining talented and quality manpower in teaching profession. The Committee would further like to point out that attracting and retaining talented people to the teaching profession is the key to increase the quality of education being imparted in Higher Education Institutions. The Committee also appreciates the recommendation of the

**Government for the constitution of the UGC pay review Committee, which is a right step for attracting quality manpower to the teaching profession. However, the Committee feels that the Government should pursue the matter with the Department of Expenditure for expediting the matter.** (Para 7.12)

## **OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry. The Committee feels that Open and Distance Learning (ODL) education system is catering to a large section of the Country and a regulatory body should be there to oversee ODL education system. The Committee again reiterates that the Distance Education Council of India (DECI) Bill should be brought before Parliament without loosing further time.** (Para 10.6)

## **STRENGTHENING PRIVATE TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY**

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee notes the faculty position as provided by the Department. The Committee, prime concern is quality of the faculty is yet to be addressed. The Committee observes that the reply of the Department is incomplete in as much as it does not apprise the Committee of the steps taken/being taken by them for improving the existing mechanism for eliminating the favouritism and corruption in the process of selection of faculty. The Committee strongly feels unless strong measures are taken the menace would continue.** (Para 11.2)

### **Comments of the Committee**

**The Committee is not satisfied with the reply of the Department. The Committee points out that UGC, AICTE, NAAC and NAB are regulatory bodies dealing with Higher Education in the Country, and there seems to be lack of transparency in these Institutions, Higher Education in suffering in the Country. The Committee would also like to point out that complaint related to these regulatory bodies should not just be monitored but action should also be taken to address these concerns. The Committee appreciates the online redressal portal devised by the UGC and other regulatory bodies like AICTE, etc. should**

**adopt such best practices not only for grievances against AICTE approved Institutions but those against AICTE itself. (Para 14.2)**

#### **STRENGTHENING OF UGC AND AICTE**

**The Committee wishes that findings of the said two Committee, and action taken thereon be furnished to this Committee. (Para 13.4)**



---

# MINUTES

---