

Newspaper Clips

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PIONEER ND 12/03/2012

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IIT director's report misled CVC

MOUSHUMI BASU ■ NEW DELHI

In gross misuse of power and authority, the Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has been found to have misled the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) by submitting a false report on complaints related to the irregularities in the appointment of the officiating registrar in the premier institute of the country.

The documents accessed by *The Pioneer* revealed that there had been successive irregularities in IIT Kharagpur involving direct appointment of Dr TK Ghosal in the respective posts of Assistant Registrar, Deputy Registrar and Officiating Registrar in violation of norms on minimum educational qualification set by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

These "undue favours" shown to Ghosal by the present Director IIT Kharagpur, Dr D Acharya and his predecessors were suppressed in a misleading report to the CVC by the

Director himself. The report was sent through the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). This information came to light through response to an RTI applications filed by KB Mahapatra and JK Pal (both former employees of IIT Kharagpur).

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continued to get selected to the coveted posts in brazen defiance of these norms. Acharya in his report submitted to CVC, however, justified his action of Dr Ghosal's appointment stating "in case of promotion to Asst Registrar and Deputy Registrar educational qualifica-

tioned institute in the country.

It was further found that Dr Ghosal's latest appointment as officiating registrar was made by Dr Acharya by completely defying the recommendations of the select committee. There were three candidates for the post who were

special favours on Dr Ghosal. As per the documents obtained he draws the regular pay-scale and allowances payable to the Registrar, while officiating for the post in violation of the rules.

The Pioneer had earlier reported that Dr Acharya was indicted by the CBI, which even recommended his dismissal from service. As the then AICTE chairman, The CBI had then found Acharya's involvement in overruling an expert committee report and granting extension of approval to Padmavathi Engineering College, in Tamil Nadu despite the college failing on several parameters.

However, regarded as the "blue-eyed person of MHRD" Acharya followed up as the IIT Director, and continues with full powers. However, in sharp contrast Dr RA Yadav who succeeded him as the Chairman AICTE was suspended, jailed and later terminated from the service for similar charges of favouring institutions by overruling the reports of experts.

THERE HAD BEEN SUCCESSIVE IRREGULARITIES IN IIT KHARAGPUR INVOLVING DIRECT APPOINTMENT OF DR TK GHOSAL IN THE RESPECTIVE POSTS OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, DEPUTY REGISTRAR AND OFFICIATING REGISTRAR IN VIOLATION OF NORMS ON MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

The MHRD, in 1990 had set postgraduate degree with minimum 55 per cent marks as the minimum qualifications for direct appointment to the post of Assistant Registrar, Deputy Registrar and Registrar.

The RTI response has revealed that Dr TK Ghosal, who had post-graduated from Utkal University with Public Administration, did not possess the minimum qualifying marks of 55 per cent. With 53.8 per cent marks to his credit he con-

ditions need not be insisted'.

The above statement may hold good in case of promotion. But the documents revealed that Dr Ghosal had not acquired any of these posts by promotion but through the process of direct recruitment.

It is surprising that Acharya's reply to CVC had been submitted via the MHRD, which ignored its own norms when forwarding the report to the corruption watchdog in connection with such a reput-

not only senior to Dr Ghosal but also satisfying the criteria of postgraduate degree with 55 per cent marks. Neither did they have any adverse entry in their service records. As per the rule, mostly practised in all GOI appointments, when none of the candidates, including Dr Ghosal, was found suitable for the post of Registrar, the senior most Dy Registrar, satisfying all the eligibility criteria should have been made the Officiating Registrar.

There is no end to the spree

Hindu ND 12/03/2012 P-20

UGC sets target for higher education enrolment

Present figures low compared to advanced countries

Nagesh Prabhu

BANGALORE: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has chalked out several plans to increase gross enrolment ratio (GER) of students in higher education from the present 20 per cent to 30 per cent during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17).

The Commission has prepared a document on inclusive and quality expansion of higher education. The country's GER, indicator of access to higher education is about 20 per cent of the relevant age (17-23 years) group — low compared to that in advanced countries, UGC Chairman (Acting) Ved Prakash told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of a programme at the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) here on Sunday.

"The GER in India will be increased to 30 per cent. I am very optimistic," he said.

It would require an in-

• **More colleges to be opened in low GER districts**

• **Enrolment now largely concentrated in public varsities**

crease in the student enrolment from the present level of 14 million to 22 million in colleges and the universities. More colleges would be opened in low GER districts, he said.

With higher education passing through a phase of unprecedented expansion marked by substantial increase in the number of institutions and enrolment of students, the UGC has sought Rs. 1,84,470 crore for its various programmes during the 12th Plan against Rs. 85,000 crore in the 11th Five-Year Plan.

Prof. Prakash said the Commission had planned strategies for the 12th Plan with various schemes under the three major heads of access,

equity and quality with inter-laced components of relevance, value-education and creativity.

"The overall budget requirement projected to achieve the proposed initiatives is Rs.1,84,700 crore." There are 611 universities and university-level institutions and 31,324 colleges in the country, as of 2011.

Asked about increase in the number of colleges under universities, he said the Commission was in favour of granting autonomy to colleges and those with potential for excellence and having a student strength of more than 3,000 would be converted into universities or deemed universities.

About challenges in the next Plan, he said access to higher education was still less than the minimum international threshold levels. Distribution of institutions is skewed, enrolment is largely concentrated in public universities and in the conventional disciplines, the UGC chief said.

The focus would be on achieving higher access through better utilisation of existing infrastructure, upgradation of infrastructure and creation of new institutions to meet the objective of regional equity, he said. Noting that the three challenges of expansion, equity and excellence cannot be addressed in isolation, he said a single-minded pursuit of expansion could turn into chasing meaningless statistics. Exclusive focus on equity could compromise on quality and pursuit of excellence could be confined to a few islands. "The 12th Plan needs a more holistic approach," he said.

Hindustan Times ND 12/03/2012

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Row over appointment of UGC's chairman escalates
The controversy regarding the selection process for the

UGC Chairman refuses to die down. To substantiate the allegations that the process was manipulated, a letter written by Uttar Pradesh Governor BL Joshi on February 27 is being cited as proof. Joshi had apparently congratulated Pankaj Chandra, one of the two panelists, for his selection for the coveted post without realising that the Centre has yet to make up its mind. Academic circles are wondering why would Joshi write such a letter unless he was sure of Chandra's selection to the position once held by the Prime Minister.

Three shortlisted for IGNOU V-C post

Names sent to HRD Ministry; BHU, Indraprastha University former V-Cs, Lucknow varsity V-C in the fray

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

FROM over a hundred candidates who were in the fray for the top job at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the race is down to three. They are Prof D P Singh, former vice-chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, Prof K K Agarwal, former V-C Indraprastha University, Delhi, and Prof Manoj Mishra, V-C, Lucknow University.

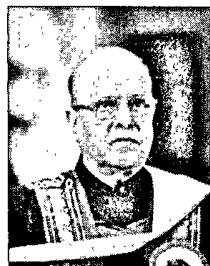
New Delhi-based IGNOU is the largest distance learning university of the country that caters to the educational needs of over

four million students.

A search-cum-selection committee chaired by eminent space scientist Dr K Kasturirangan — with UPSC Chairperson D P Agarwal and former Barkatullah University V-C Prof I S Chauhan on board — has submitted the panel of three candidates to the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD), which is likely to finalise on one name very soon, according to sources.

Prof D P Singh and Prof K K Agarwal are said to be frontrunners.

Prof Ved Prakash, acting chairman of the University Grants Commission, and



Search-cum-selection committee was headed by space scientist Dr K Kasturirangan

Prof Surbhi Banerjee, the V-C of Koraput University, were also being considered

for the job, but were dropped as the selection committee felt that while Ved Prakash's area of expertise was largely in school education, the latter had to still make a mark in the academic world.

The post of IGNOU V-C has been vacant since late last year after Rajasekharan Pillai completed his term in October 2011. The search for his successor has had its share of controversy. Well known agriculture scientist and Rajya Sabha MP M S Swaminathan and NIIT chairman Rajendra Pawar were originally on the search-cum-selection panel, but had to step down fol-

lowing allegations of a conflict of interest by the university staff. The IGNOU Board of Management headed by Pillai had nominated the two to the selection panel formed to search his successor.

As per norms, the two persons nominated by board of management should not be employed in any way by IGNOU. While this committee had already held two meetings, complaints to the HRD Ministry revealed that Prof Swaminathan served as the honorary Chair for Sustainable Development at IGNOU and also resided in the accommodation allotted to

him by the university.

In case of Pawar, he had signed an MoU with IGNOU on behalf on NIIT for skill building in the higher education sector.

Having been criticised every now and then for political interference in the selection of V-Cs, the HRD ministry was quick to take cognizance of complaints and had suggested to the two candidates that they should recuse themselves from the committee.

A new committee was accordingly constituted bringing in the UPSC chairman and the former Barkatullah University V-C on board.

Hindustan Times ND 12/03/2012

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Selection of IGNOU's vice-chancellor fixed?
Allegations of 'match-fixing' during the selection process for the vice-chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) are now doing the rounds. It is being alleged that each of the Search Committee members

have included a nominee of their choice in the three-member panel sent to the ministry. To add insult to the injury, the Ministry has been asked to send the panel as it is to the Rashtrapati Bhawan to enable the President to take the final view on who should be selected for the Central University. The ministry is now in a dilemma on how to salvage the situation by not becoming a party to this match-fixing.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

The campus module of 'InDialogues: Conversations with the World' makes its India debut at IIT Delhi

Curated by theIdeaWorks, a design and strategy firm headquartered in Delhi, the campus module of 'InDialogues:



'Conversations with the World' made its India debut at IIT Delhi last week. Two eminent speakers, Soumitra Dutta, professor at INSEAD, France, and dean designate of Cornell University's Johnson Business School of Management, and Wilfried Aulbur, managing partner, Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, India, fired the imagination of students. Dutta, who is an alumnus of IIT Delhi, highlighted two prompts for innovation: Technological push, where new technologies create whole new industries, and market pull, where existing technologies are combined to create viable market solutions. Wilfried Aulbur, in his talk on "The Future of Automotive Engineering 2025", stressed upon the need for auto engineering to cope with five main challenges: higher regional complexity, higher technology complexity, higher product complexity, cost optimisation and war for talent.

Another project put on hold

LATE last year Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and IIT-Delhi, started discussions on linking themselves to form a 'Meta University', a pilot of sorts for the Central government's ambitious project with the same name. The government project envisioned the linkage of 31,000 colleges and 6,400 universities. But those working on the pilot project said things are not as easy as they seem. According to senior DU officials, the pilot is far from taking off because IIT-Delhi is yet to come on board.

Economic Times ND
12/03/2012 p-13

Sibal Rejects Nitish's Varsity Demand Again

HRD minister says central university will come up in Gaya, not Motihari

URMIA GOSWAMI
NEW DELHI

HRD minister Kapil Sibal has made it clear that the permanent campus of the Central University of Bihar will be in Gaya. In a letter to chief minister Nitish Kumar, he reiterated the rationale behind the Centre's decision and appealed to Kumar to not let politics come in the way of providing quality education.

The state government is adamant that the university be located in Motihari, and has a resolution of the state assembly backing its demand. The temporary location of the university is in jeopardy too after the Birla Institute of Technology asked it to vacate the premises.

Kumar had written to Sibal on February 29 stressing that the university be located in Motihari, given its association with the freedom struggle. The chief minister made it clear that the state government would provide free land in Motihari for the purpose.

In his letter, Sibal refuted Kumar's allegation that the Centre had acted in a "unilateral" manner in finalising the university's location.

"For the last two years, the Central Government is in correspondence with State Government seeking alternative options for locating the Central University of Bihar. I made a public request to you during my visit to Patna for options. In response, the State Government indicated that they would not countenance any location other than Motihari for the Central Universi-



STANDING FIRM: Kapil Sibal

ty... I beseech you to accept the decision for locating the Central University of Bihar at Gaya and proceed ahead. You are aware that the Central University of Bihar is under pressure to shift from its present temporary campus. We have already lost a few years in identifying an appropriate location," Sibal wrote.

Citing examples from Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Kumar accused the Centre of applying different yardsticks across states for deciding locations for central universities.

Sibal responded to this by saying that while the ministry had initially agreed to the idea of setting up central universities in locations suggested by the state, the experience in Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Karnataka had prompted a rethink.

"There has been severe disquiet in the academic community on the selection of sites in certain locations... The difficulties being faced by some of the Central Universities — most notably in Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Karnataka — in attracting quality faculty due to the disadvantage of their location have been discussed numerous times, even receiving adverse comment in the media," Sibal wrote.

Indian Express ND 12/03/2012

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Accept Central varsity in Gaya: Sibal to Nitish

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

HUMAN Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal has written to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on the vexed Central university issue, asking him to accept Gaya over Motihari as its location and not let "distrust or politics intrude" upon this national task.

The Union HRD ministry and Bihar government have been locked in a conflict since 2009 over the location of the Central University in Bihar. While Nitish has been insistent on Motihari for the varsity, the HRD ministry has been of the view that such a location would hardly attract quality faculty or students.

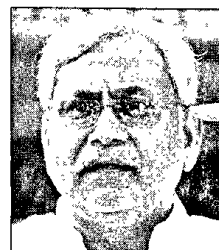
With the Bihar government refusing to allow any land/site other than in Motihari, the ministry has now managed the requisite 300 acres of land near Gaya from the Defence ministry.

Nitish is hardly amused and has shot off an angry letter to Sibal, alleging the Centre's double standards and also refusing the Centre's offer to help set up a state university in Motihari.

Rejecting these allegations, Sibal has pointed out that a number of states have provided well-connected sites for Central universities and where that has not been the case, the varsities have been hemmed in by difficulties.

"The Ministry of Human Resource Development had in the initial stage agreed for the establishment of the Central universities in locations offered by the state government. However, there has been severe disquiet in the academic community on the selection of sites in certain locations. The Central universities were intended to be exemplars of the highest quality education. They were meant to be pace-setters fostering a culture of quality teaching-learning and research in their environment," Sibal has written.

He has pointed out in his letter to Nitish that the Central universities set up in Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Haryana have faced difficulties "in attracting quality fac-



Nitish has been insistent on Motihari

ulty due to the disadvantage of their location".

"Therefore, a conscious decision was taken to identify the most appropriate site for the Central university so that it does not start with a disadvantage in attaining its lofty aims," the minister has explained in his letter.

Pointing out how Jharkhand has given land in Ranchi and Gujarat in Gandhinagar after its Sabarkantha site was not approved by the Centre's site selection committee, the HRD minister has noted that in most states the new sites selected are well connected. The Centre, Sibal, has argued, has also been very cooperative with Bihar and included its Buniyaadi Paathshalas in the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) at the state government's behest.

"You may kindly appreciate that Motihari is neither adjacent to an urban agglomeration nor is well-connected for the intended purposes. The site proposed at Pachampur in the district of Gaya is proximate to the urban agglomeration at Gaya. It is a historical and cultural centre of international importance and is located at a distance of 25 km from Gaya International airport," Sibal has written, seeking the state government's collaboration.

The Indian Express first reported how the Centre was going to set up a Central university in Gaya instead of Motihari as demanded by the state government. While Nitish had rejected the HRD ministry's offer to assist in setting up a state university in Motihari, Sibal is learnt to have renewed the offer saying he was ready to "walk the extra mile".

Times Of India ND 12/03/2012 P-8

DU to send profs to foreign varsities

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi University is planning to send 70 young college teachers abroad to study emerging disciplines. Though only about 15 science teachers had gone to pursue a masters programme in a foreign university last time, the varsity has decided to extend the scheme to teachers from social sciences and humanities this year. This facility is open only to college teachers aged under 35 years. It aims to encourage teachers to take up new areas of study where the university still lacks expertise.

"We have a scope of sending nearly 70 teachers to study at foreign universities this time. This will be the third batch and 30 teachers have taken up courses in foreign universities so far. The ones, who have come back, are likely to contribute in designing new courses and adding value to the existing curricula," said a senior DU official. He also said the number of beneficiaries has been increased this year as teachers from social science and humanities

can also apply.

The young faculty training programme was launched in 2010 with a grant of Rs 15 crore received from the ministry of human resources development as part of the University of Excellence Grant. The university is likely to tie up with University of Edinburgh, University of Nottingham, University of Glasgow, University of Birmingham, University of British Columbia and King's College, London, to send the teachers there for a post-graduate programme.

"The scheme is designed to bring young faculty of colleges face-to-face with international scholars. The young faculty will pursue courses where we need to strengthen our teaching and learning. The teachers can apply till March 15," said an official. Selection will be based on the plan of action submitted by the teachers followed by an interview. The disciplines to be offered include economics and econometrics, nanotechnology, electronic sciences, web management, quantitative genetics, among others.

Times Of India ND 12/03/2012 P-17

Eye in sky: China set to launch 100 satellites by 2015

Salbal Dasgupta | TNN

Beijing: China has unrolled a plan to fill the sky with its satellites, launching a total of 100 by 2015. It will also carry out the first manned space rendezvous with the Shenzhou-9 spacecraft this year.

"The densely arranged launch missions and flight tests have posed an unprecedented challenge to the country's space programme," Zhang Jianheng, deputy general manager of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp said.

The plan is to stay ahead of the United States launching an average of 20 satellites a year. China crossed the US tally of 18 satellite launches in 2011 by sending out 20 of them last year.

But Russia continued to lead the world by launching 36 satellites in 2011.

China has an ambitious

With 20 launches in 2011, China has pipped US (18) to be the world's No. 2 in terms of launch numbers following Russia's 36

plan of launching 30 satellites in 2012, Zhang told reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the Chinese parliament, where he is a legislator.

China conducted its first space docking experiment last year to build a space station of its own by 2020.

The new space missions included launching the third lunar probe, Chang'e-3 next year and conduct a moon landing and lunar explorations.

China launched the Chang'e-1 in 2007 and the Chang'e-2 2010.

Business Bhaskar ND 12/03/2012 p-1

भारी खर्च के बावजूद शिक्षा में क्वालिटी नहीं

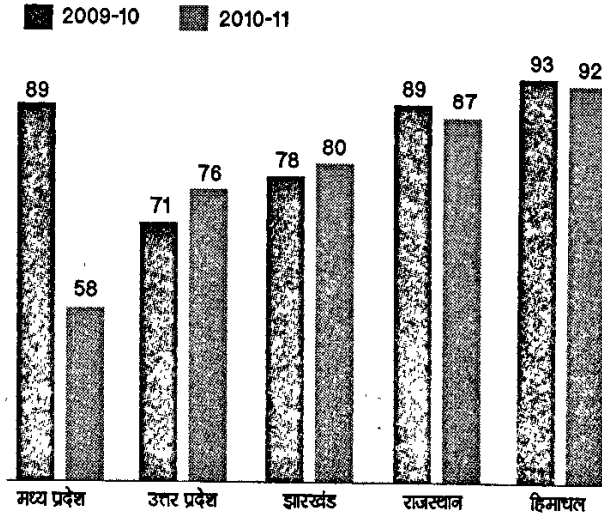
क. यतीश राजावत

पिछली कड़ी में आपने पढ़ा कि सरकार किस तरह अपने खर्च और आय के अंतर को उधारी से पाटती है। इस बार पढ़िए कि सरकार शिक्षा जैसे अहम मुद्दे पर बजट में कैसे खर्च कर रही है। शिक्षा में सरकार का सबसे बड़ा खर्च सर्वशिक्षा अभियान पर हो रहा है। इसके लिए दो साल पहले राइट टू एजुकेशन (आरटीई) बिल पास किया गया था। पैसा आपका है और सरकार खर्च कर रही है, वह भी उस शिक्षा पर जो आपके बच्चों का भविष्य तय करती है।

वर्ष 2011-12 के बजट में सरकार ने सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के लिए करीब 22,000 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया। यह पैसा एक स्पेशल टैक्स यानी एजुकेशन सेस के माध्यम से आपकी जेब से निकाल कर खर्च किया जा रहा है। मगर इतने बड़े खर्च के बावजूद शिक्षा में कोई सुधार नहीं हो रहा। एनुअल स्टेट्स ऑफ एजुकेशन (एएसईआर) - जो हर साल शिक्षा की क्वालिटी पर देश भर में सर्वे के बाद निकलने वाली रिपोर्ट है - के मुताबिक अब भी पांचवाँ क्लास के 50 फीसदी बच्चे दूसरी क्लास की टेस्ट बुक नहीं पढ़ सकते हैं।

शिक्षा की क्वालिटी लगातार गिर रही है क्योंकि जो पैसा खर्च हो रहा है उसका फोकस क्वालिटी सुधारना नहीं बल्कि राजनीतिक लाभ लेना है। आरटीई एक्ट के तहत सरकार ने एक रिजर्वेशन सिस्टम शुरू किया जिससे गरीब बच्चों को प्राइवेट स्कूलों में एडमिशन मिल सके। यह भी प्रावधान हुआ कि इन बच्चों की फीस सरकार देगी और एडमिशन की कार्रवाई में राज्य सरकार काम करेगी। यह सरकार की सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी स्कीम थी और इसके लिए हजारों करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया। लेकिन यह स्कीम पूरी तरह से फेल हो गई। ज्यादातर राज्य सरकारों ने निजी स्कूलों में एडमिशन के लिए दिशानिर्देश ही नहीं बनाए। कुछ राज्यों ने दिशानिर्देश बनाए लेकिन उसे अमल में नहीं लाया गया। केंद्र सरकार ने कई

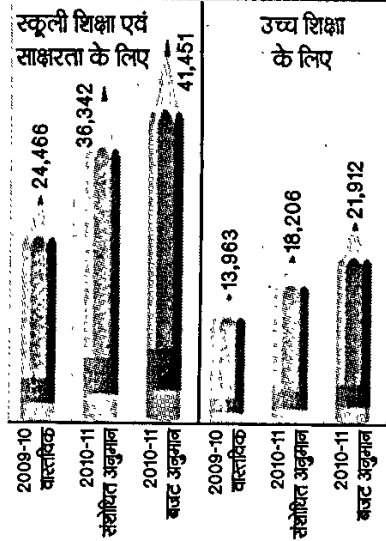
आवंटित राशि की तुलना में व्यय (फीसदी में)



बार यह सवाल उठाया। राज्य सरकारों के साथ बैठकें हुईं, लेकिन किसी भी राज्य में गरीब बच्चों का एडमिशन नहीं हुआ। यह इसलिए क्योंकि जिस जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी को यह जिम्मेदारी है उसके पास ना तो क्वालिफिकेशन है और ना ही ऐसी कोई कानूनी बाधता जो यह एडमिशन दिला सके। निजी स्कूल चलाने वाले हर शहर के रसूखदार और प्रभावी व्यक्ति होते हैं। वे नहीं चाहते कि उनके स्कूल का वातावरण निचले वर्ग के बच्चों के आने से खराब हो। अमल में कमजोरी और तीखे विरोध की वजह से यह योजना नाकाम हो गई। शिक्षा में सबसे बड़ी जरूरत क्वालिटी की है, और क्वालिटी आती है शिक्षकों से। सरकार के पास इसके लिए कोई योजना नहीं है। शिक्षकों

की भर्ती या वे किस तरह की पढ़ाई करा रहे हैं, इस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता। शिक्षकों को कैसे अपग्रेड किया जाए, कैसे वे अपने पढ़ाने के तरीके बदल सकें, क्या वे छात्रों को पढ़ाने में नई तकनीक का उपयोग कर रहे हैं, इन सभी चीजों पर कोई ध्यान ही नहीं है। पूरा जोर गरीब के नाम पर योजना बनाने और पैसा खराब करने पर है। जब पूरे शिक्षा बजट का 44% शिक्षकों के नाम पर जा रहा है और इसका आवंटन लगातार बढ़ रहा है, तो यह पैसा कहाँ खर्च हो रहा है और इस खर्च के बावजूद टीचिंग की क्वालिटी क्यों नहीं सुधर रही है, यह एक सवाल है। दोष राज्य सरकारों का भी है क्योंकि वे शिक्षा पर पूरा खर्च कर ही नहीं रही हैं। जितना पैसा केंद्र सरकार आवंटित करती है, वे उतना

शिक्षा पर केंद्र का व्यय (करोड़ रुपये)



पैसा भी नहीं उठा पा रही है (साथ दिया चार्ट देखें)। शिक्षा पर सरकार खर्च करती तो उसको मना नहीं किया जा सकता था, उसका विरोध करना बेवकूफी माना जाता। लेकिन शिक्षा के नाम पर बर्बादी होना सिर्फ पैसे की बर्बादी नहीं, हमारे बच्चों के भविष्य के साथ भी खिलवाड़ है। बच्चों के भविष्य के बारे में सबसे ज्यादा चिंता उनके माता-पिता को होती है, लेकिन सरकार ने कभी इस कड़ी को जोड़ने की कोशिश नहीं की। जब गवर्नर्स ऑफ एजुकेशन देश में पूरी तरह फेल हो गई है, राज्य सरकारें पैसा खर्च नहीं कर रही, जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी तैयार नहीं हैं तो क्या समय नहीं आ गया है कि सरकार या तो एजुकेशन सेस हटा दे, या फिर शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता के नाम पर जो खर्च हो रहा है उसे उन माता-पिता को सीधे वापस कर दे जिनके बच्चे स्कूल जाते हैं। वे इस पैसे को बेहतर तरीके से खर्च कर सकेंगे।

प्री बजट सीरीज



परिचय देकर

सोपानवासी आवाज पर शाम 6:00 बजे

शिक्षा बजट में पिछले साल के दौरान आवंटन काफी बढ़ा है, लेकिन पैसा खर्च करने के अधिकार का विकेंद्रीकरण नहीं होने से पढ़ाई की गुणवत्ता नहीं बढ़ रही है। स्कूलों को पैसा खर्च करने का अधिकार नहीं है। पैसा जब तक स्कूल पहुंचता है तब तक साल का अंत हो जाता है। शिक्षा के अधिकार के तहत सबसे बड़ी चुनौती पढ़ाई की गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करना है। कुल आवंटन की 72% राशि शिक्षक पर खर्च होती है। गुणवत्ता पर सिर्फ एक फीसदी राशि खर्च होती है जिसे बढ़ाने की जरूरत है।

-यामिनी अय्यर, सीनियर रिसर्च फेलो, सेंटर फॉर पॉलिसी रिसर्च



शिक्षा के अधिकार को लागू करने की जिम्मेदारी जिनकी है या सरकार में जो लोग बैठे हैं उन्हें इससे कोई सरोकार नहीं है, क्योंकि उनके बच्चे सरकारी स्कूलों में नहीं जाते। तीन करोड़ बच्चे प्रवासी श्रमिकों के हैं और उनमें से एक करोड़ स्कूल जाने की उम्र में हैं लेकिन वे स्कूल नहीं जाते हैं। दो करोड़ विकलांग बच्चे हैं और वे भी शिक्षा के अधिकार से वंचित हैं। चार करोड़ से अधिक बाल श्रमिक भी स्कूल नहीं जा पा रहे हैं। झोंप आउट बच्चों को भी स्कूल लाने का प्रयत्न नहीं किया जा रहा है।

-अशोक अग्रवाल, दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट व सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अधिवक्ता व सोशल ज्यूरिस्ट के सलाहकार



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BUDGET2012

Policy focus

What should be the priority areas in education in budget 2012-13?

Education Times finds out from a cross-section of academics

Parvin Sinclair, *Director, NCERT*

Primary and secondary education needs fund allocation, with the focus on the last child getting an opportunity to study at least till Class X. Every sector needs more funds. We, at NCERT, wish to do much more in school education and require funds for these activities too. Education is on the concurrent list, which means that the school sector not only requires central government funding, but each state government has to agree to policies and fund them too.

AS Narang, *Professor, School of Social Sciences, Ignou*

A major portion of present grants to universities goes in for salaries and maintenance. Infrastructure remains a low priority. The need is not only to provide adequate allocations, but of clear earmarking of funds for infrastructure, research facilities and R&D. Since states are not contributing to higher education, the Centre should introduce schemes of grants to states, to improve the quality of universities and also to encourage states to contribute likewise. Funds also need to be earmarked for filling a large number of vacant positions. Quality research in social sciences is another area that needs attention. Also, budgetary allocation for improvement of overall infrastructure and facilities for research must be given priority.

Dinesh Singh, *VC, Delhi University (DU)*

The scope for innovations in technology, research facilities, experiments and new breakthroughs in science will make higher education substantial and productive. This should be a focus area for funding. More innovations, introduction of new degree programmes and activities for students in undergraduate disciplines must be the priority areas. The budget should focus on allocating more funds for improving soft-skills and also invest in the vocational education sector.

M Anandakrishnan, *Chairman, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur*

For the last five budgets, higher education has been given prominence. It has received special attention in order to sustain and provide sufficient support for economic growth. This trend is likely to continue. At present, technical education has two components — large support base like the universities of national importance (IITs, etc), and state-level institutions. While the central universities get sufficient attention, state-level universities suffer from low budget allocation and improper recognition, which should be focussed on.

SS Handa, *Professor, department of computer science, faculty of engineering and technology, Manav Rachna International University*

The core allocation of funds for this year's budget must cover academic research areas like biodiversity, pollution control and sustainable development.

Around 37% of our GDP comes from MSMEs. Hence, the government should extend funding support in research activities in these units.

Major fund allocation should be made for development in IT systems to make progress in manufacturing, business development and service sectors from micro to large-scale.

To develop green technology, the government should allocate funds for setting up small R&D centres, which will transfer knowledge to various sectors.