

CONSENSUS POINTS ARISING IN THE CONFERENCE OF STATE EDUCATION MINISTERS' HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2010

The Hon'ble Minister representing States welcomed the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in respect of the proposed National Educational Finance Corporation, which is conceived to provide easy refinance and differential guarantees in respect of educational loans availed by students for higher education from Banks and financial institutions. The proposed Corporation shall also finance the infrastructural requirements of educational institutions directly as well as through refinance facilities.

The Hon'ble Minister of HRD shared with the Hon'ble Ministers from States a child centric vision of education including higher education. In particular, he exhorted States to join hands in

- a) Reducing the multiplicity of entrance examinations for entry to higher education;
- b) The need to develop a core curriculum in schools for the subjects of science and mathematics, without in any manner restricting or affecting the authority of States in prescribing syllabi and conducting Board Examinations. Such a core curriculum would enable level playing field for all students irrespective of background;
- c) Establishing a National Institute for Assessment and Evaluation, which could serve as an advisory institution to help School Boards volunteering to seek such help in assessment and evaluation
- d) Restoring the weightage that must be accorded to performance in class 12 in entrance tests for professional and other courses; this would minimize the current inequality in access to such courses of study due to dominating influence of expensive preparatory coaching;
- e) Extending the system of Comprehensive and Continuous Evaluation up to class 10;
- f) A National Vocational Curriculum Framework;
- g) A curriculum framework for value education because examinations are only a gateway to higher education whereas values last and guide a lifetime.

HRM agreed to take up at the appropriate levels the feelings expressed by Hon'ble Ministers from States in regard to the enhancement of age of superannuation of teachers in higher education in the pay revision package.

States were requested to send in proposals under 11th Plan schemes in accordance with the decision taken by the National Development Council.
