

Draft minutes of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held on 7th June 2011 at Conference Hall, Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

The 58th Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education was held on 7th June 2011 under the Chairmanship of Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development. The list of participants is Annexure-I.

At the outset, Ms. Vibha Puri Das, Member Secretary (CABE) and Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of India welcomed Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Dr. D. Purendeswari, Hon'ble Minister of State for HRD, Shri Ajay Maken, Hon'ble Minister of State for Sports, Shri Narendra Jadhav, Member (Education), Planning Commission, Hon'ble Ministers of States/UTs, distinguished members of CABE, Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Secretaries and Additional Secretaries, Heads of various autonomous organisations, academicians, senior officials of Central and State Governments, attending the meeting.

Ms. Vibha Puri Das, Member Secretary briefly outlined the agenda of the meeting and mentioned that CABE is the highest advisory body to advise Central Government and State Governments in the field of Education. She further stated that CABE has served as a forum of wide ranging consultations relating to education. She also referred the last CABE meeting held on 19th June 2010 and said that since the last meeting, many developments have taken place in the education sector. She also touched upon the recommendations of the last meeting of CABE held on 19th June 2010 and follow up action thereon with regard to Higher Education and Research Bill, National Academic Depository Bill, harmonising of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan norms and National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework. She referred to 2-Day Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Central and State Universities held on 25-26th March 2011 under the aegis of the University Grants Commission. She referred to formulation of XII Five Year Plan. Once again, welcoming Hon'ble Ministers of HRD, other Union Ministers, Hon'ble Ministers of State Governments and distinguished members of CABE,

she requested Chairman, (Hon'ble HRM) CABE to kindly set the tone of the meeting by giving his opening remarks.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development

Hon'ble HRM, in his opening remarks, touched upon various issues concerning education sector. He stated that this was the third meeting of the CABE, during the last 2 years, being first on 20.8.2009 and second on 19.6.2010. He also referred his interaction with State Education Ministers, Secretaries to the Government of various States and with other officials. HRM was of the view that the power of ideas is the only way to move forward and the civilisations that don't understand the power of ideas, always fail their people. He felt that though India is having a demographic advantage, we can take advantage of the same only if we embrace the agenda of equity and quality. He stressed that investment in the minds of our young people, is the best way forward to unleash the kind of economic development that the country is talking about. He stated that 672 million people in India are in the age group of 15 to 64 years and the country should take the advantage of these demographics which is possible without equity and quality in the education system. He emphasised on the need to provide quality education and choice to the students. He also emphasised the need for taking elementary education forward up to 12th class as is available in other countries. He referred to the agenda for the discussion for extension of RTE to secondary level. He also shared the thought of Mahatma Gandhi who said that a human being is incomplete till he works with his hands, think with his mind, and listens to his conscience.

With regard to National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF), he stressed that we should give children the choice of vocational courses so that they can contribute to the society, as also to their own families. He was of the view that what is required is to empower the child by various skills options to enhance his future employability. For this, an NVEQF that sets common standards, but with diversity within the system and has provisions for mobility, is the need of the hour. He felt that children should not be allowed to face discrimination on matters of belief, caste and

creed. HRM also urged the State Governments identify the areas for skill development that are relevant from regional to local context. He was of the view that the qualification frame work should ensure mobility of the child to move from vocational to academics, and vice-versa. HRM also urged that the element of diversity must be built into the education sector in the context of vocational training.

He stated that there is enormous expansion in the education sector and a number of institutions are coming up in private sector as well as Government aided/unaided institutions. He stated that many malpractices are being seen like capitation fee, discriminatory ways of admission excluding the marginalised communities, etc. He, therefore, stressed the need to set these mal-practices in order through the Prohibition of Unfair Practice Bill for higher education on which the Parliamentary Standing Committee has given its Report and hoped that it will be introduced in the ensuing Parliament Session.

With regard to prevention and prohibition of unfair practices in school education, HRM referred to the agenda of the CAGE and said that Government is intending to have a similar legislation to end malpractices in school education and the model law, which deals with higher education, could be the basis for preparing such a law. HRM urged the State Governments to support the proposed legislation as State Governments are equally concerned about the malpractices within the States, especially of certain private institutions who are allegedly misusing their powers.

He also referred to recommendations made in the conference of Vice-chancellors of Central and state Universities, held in Delhi recently, and sought the views of State Governments on these recommendations with reference to affiliation system. HRM also drew the attention of state education ministers and CAGE members about the need to have National Book Promotion Policy to inculcate the kind of interest in reading books. He also drew the attention of the members that many languages are now endangered particularly in the north-east and sought the co-operation from all to preserve these endangered languages.

Shri Ajay Maken, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports

Shri Ajay Maken, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports stressed the need for seeking integration, synergy, and conversion of academic curriculum with Sports & Physical Education. He thanked HRM for ensuring every school to have the facility of at least one playground through RTE, making physical education instructor mandatory and making compulsory that every school should have some game-equipments which the students of that school can use. He expressed happiness that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan norms have been modified, so that it would be easier for the schools to get sports equipments and also for the circular issued by CBSE asking all the schools under them to keep at least one day for sports activities upto class X and two periods per week for XI and XII standard students. He was of the view that if these things are implemented in true spirit, Government will be able to achieve the objectives of sports policy "Sports for All" and "Sports for Development". He mentioned that one of the biggest challenges will be to provide large number of physical education teachers which would be required in schools. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have Lakshimibai National University of Physical Education, where the total capacity of training will be up scaled but more is needed at the state level, which perhaps, the State Ministers may like to take it up at their respective State level. He further pointed out that another issue which needs to be addressed is that the physical education and sports is not adequately addressed into the school time table, which the Education Ministers representing various states may like to ensure. He also pointed out that the playgrounds which are available in many schools have not been properly maintained. At present, disproportionate emphasis on academic curriculum is made, whereas there is need to give emphasise on sports.

Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member (Education), Planning Commission

Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, (Education), Planning Commission in his opening remarks mentioned that CABE meetings are always important, but this meeting is even more important as it is taking place at a time when we have just commenced work on the formulation of XII Five year Plan which begins on 1st April, 2012. He

was of the view that compared to other countries like USA, countries in Western Europe, China, Japan, etc, India has tremendous advantage in terms of youth power and the need of the hour is to harness this demographic dividend, the key to which lies in education and skill development. In his address, he also touched upon the issue of demographic dividend and average age group of Indians in comparison to other countries. He pointed out that the key to maintaining and sustaining the double digit economic growth lies in education and skill development. He expressed happiness that in the Full Planning Commission Meeting held on April 21, 2011. It was stressed that education, skill development and health deserves high priority in the Resource Allocation in the XIIth Five Year Plan. He mentioned that Planning Commission has constituted several Steering Committees and Working Groups which have bearing on the issues being debated in the CABE Meeting. He also stated that all the Steering Committees and the Working Groups have representations from the different State Governments, wide range of educationists, experts, sub-sectoral specialist teachers, innovators, NGOs and field level workers. He also informed that a dedicated website has been launched for the XII Five Year Plan, and it is the Planning Commission's endeavour that the XII Five Year Plan becomes truly a people's plan, reflecting their views, goals, and their ever growing aspirations. He also stated that this time Planning Commission commenced the formulation of XII Five Year Plan, with very wide consultative process, both formal and informal, on the major challenges under the plan. He stated that Planning Commission is looking to the deliberations of this CABE meeting which is going to provide vital inputs in the formulation of the XII Five Year Plan.

Before moving to formal agenda items, Hon'ble HRM requested to confirm the minutes of the 57th meeting of the CABE. The members confirmed the minutes of the 57th meeting unanimously. Thereafter an Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 57th Meeting of CABE was also circulated to all the members.

After the address of HRM, the first agenda item, namely, National Vocational Education Qualification Framework was taken up.

**AGENDA ITEM-1: NATIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NVEQF)**

AGENDA ITEM-2: EXTENDING RTE UPTO SECONDARY LEVEL

A presentation was made by Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, DG, Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) on the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF)

Dr. Mehrotra underlined the problem that the majority of Indian workforce is in informal employment in the unorganized sector, with low levels of literacy and numeracy, yet no mechanism was available for them to enter formal education system. Hence, it is desirable to focus on educational component to build a sound TVET system. An element of general education element needs to be built into vocational education and vice versa, to ensure a holistic approach to human resource development. For this purpose a credit based semester system with periodical assessment and feedback for improvement of performance has been suggested. This would encourage performance based learning with definable competencies through internal and transparent assessment, based on unambiguous competency criteria. Further it was also informed that at present there are The NVEQF would also enable a unified system for the 17 Ministries offering different vocational courses in the country.

Vocational education would be demand driven with involvement of industry to identify skill requirements and gaps at national and local level. The NVEQF provides for Recognition of Prior Learning for persons having skills form the informal sector. Testing and certification of knowledge and skills that an individual has acquired in previous training and through work experience, will enable him to achieve particular levels of competencies, thus mainstreaming his expertise. Bridge courses to fill competency gaps, if any, would be provided by NIOS/State Open Schools, IGNOU/State Open Universities.

The Framework would bring about uniformity in standards of vocational courses being offered, by registration of NVEQs and accreditation of programs and institutions. NVEQ levels will be introduced in secondary and higher secondary schools,

Polytechnics, Universities & Colleges for seamless pathways and progression. There would be a shift from the present fragmented to a unified vocational education governance.

The management mechanism, operationalisation structure at the district level as well as a time frame for the roll out of the NVEQF was presented. An Inter Ministerial Committee on NVEQF is also proposed. The role of the State Govts in taking the framework forward was also highlighted. A pilot in the State of Haryana on a few sectors would also be implemented in 2011-12.

AGENDA ITEM-3: LAW TO PROHIBIT UNFAIR PRACTICES IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

Presentation made by Shri R. P. Sisodia, Joint Secretary, MHRD on Law to prohibit unfair practices in school education

In his presentation, Shri R. P. Sisodia referred to the earlier meeting of CAGE endorsing a legislation prohibiting unfair practices in universities, higher educational institutions and higher technical institutions. He also informed that in the course of consultation, suggestions were received for extension of this law in the school education as well. He informed that there was a strong feeling that separate law exclusively catering to the needs of school education sector should be put in place. He briefly gave statistics about the number of school in the country and the percentage of private and aided schools. He pointed out the unfair practices being adopted by certain private/aided schools in terms of admission, capitation fees, donations, etc. In his presentation, he made reference of Tamil Nadu who has enacted legislation in 2009 in which the fee regulation has been fixed. He referred to CBSE affiliation by-laws which prohibit certain unfair practices and any action taken for disaffiliation affects the students for no fault of theirs. There is no central law at present which can effectively curb and control such unfair practices. He said that in this background, the instant proposal is being placed before the CAGE. He clarified that the proposed Bill is not going to be some kind of an inspection and approval regime but it will be based on

self-disclosures and clients have the proper information so as to make appropriate informed choice when it comes for admission.

Shri Bosiram Siram, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Arunachal Pradesh

Hon'ble Education Minister of Arunachal Pradesh stated that lot of unfair practices is entrenched in school education. He, therefore, supported the proposal with the hope that proposed legislation would streamline the transparency in the management of school education. He alleged that many school managements provide misleading information with an intention to cheat teachers and students. He also stated that such laws would curb and discourage mushrooming of unplanned private schools. With regard to extension of RTE to secondary education, he termed it as an admirable step. He also said that free education and financial assistance extended up to secondary level will automatically reduce the dropout rates at elementary and secondary levels. He also suggested extending RTE to the higher secondary level, instead of secondary level thereby covering children from 6 to 18 years age group. As far as NVEQF is concerned, he stated that it is an encouraging step and it should ensure that local specific needs and demographic dividend of the nation, should also be equally considered. He also endorsed a common reference and framework guidelines at national level.

Shri Rabindranath Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister of School Education, West Bengal

Hon'ble Education Minister of West Bengal stated that the ratio of primary and upper primary schools in the State is not satisfactory. He stated that for implementation of RTE, the existing ratio of primary and upper primary schools should be increased. He sought financial help from the Central Government to overcome the problems concerning buildings, sanitary system, drinking water, etc. He also sought financial help for setting up higher secondary schools and also for teaching staff.

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Assam

Hon'ble Minister of Education of Assam strongly supported the proposed law to prohibit unfair practices in school education. He also stated that extension of RTE to secondary education will be another innovation in the education sector. He also endorsed the NVEQF and suggested that it would require some more consultations.

Shri Rakesh Dhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Uttar Pradesh

Hon'ble Minister of Education of UP suggested for holding CABE meeting twice in a year. With regard to NVEQF, he offered full support of the state Government and suggested formation of a Committee for this purpose. With regard to law for unfair practices, he explained that State Government has also noticed the unfair means of copying and State Government had enacted a law, long back to check the menace of copying. He was of the view that Government should enact law to check such practices by revoking affiliation of colleges found mass copying. He stated that students of the State have to compete with CBSE and also with other state boards and uniformity in the education system would help student in this regard. He was of the view that there should be uniformity in the fee structure across the colleges. He also suggested that govt should also give funds to all schools including aided schools. He referred to his earlier suggestion that funding pattern under SSA and RMSA should be 90:10 instead of 65:35. He informed HRM that no funds have been released to the state so far under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Shri C. Subramanian, CABE Member

Shri C. Subramanian, CABE member thanked HRM for holding 58th meeting. With regard to law to prohibit unfair practices in school education, he stated that management of many schools in Tamil Nadu have switched over from State Board to Central Board and further that there has been a mushroom growth of such schools in Tamil Nadu. He urged HRM that there is no need for affiliation of these schools as they charge exorbitant fee. He strongly supported the proposed law curbing unfair practices in school education. He also urged that CBSE regulations should to be

modified and it should be made compulsory for the educational agencies to make full disclosure clearly before starting their academic session. As regards extension of RTE to Secondary schools, he said that this is a positive move and the process should be speeded up as oppressed and suppressed can get benefits. In case of NVEQF, he supported this proposal and suggested that it should be circulated to all the States, NGOs, Universities and other stakeholders before its implementation.

Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Chhatisgarh

Hon'ble Education Minister of Chhattisgarh stated that State specific requirements should be considered while framing the NVEQF. He suggested that guidelines may be issued from Centre but finalisation of courses and syllabus should be done by the respective State Governments. He also stated that Chhatisgarh is dominated by tribals and their economic status and education standards are very low. Therefore, they would not be able to compete with national standards. This needs to be addressed. He suggested that vocational education should be given to all children with specialisation from Class-XI-XII. With regard to law for unfair practices in school education, he stated that there are many small schools which do not take capitation fee but they also do not have requisite infrastructure. He suggested that Government should provide one time grant to these schools to implement RTE for imparting quality education. He stated that financial support would also bring state control on these schools. He suggested enhancing the existing grant pattern of 65:35 to 75:25. He also referred the issue of teachers' training which is still pending with the Centre. He also brought to the notice of HRM about sanctioning of Rs.36 lakh for the construction of girls' hostel and said that project cannot move forward, as the amount is inadequate.

Shri Arvinder Singh Lovely, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Delhi

Hon'ble Education Minister of Delhi thanked to HRM for bringing legislation to regulate unfair practices in schools. He stated that in some States they have their own act and CBSE also has certain norms which are taking care of these unfair practices to some extent. He suggested that the draft legislation should be sent to states for their

comments so that the proposed Bill could also take into account the existing laws of the State Governments in this area. He endorsed the proposal of extension of RTE to secondary level with the condition that funding requirement for infrastructure should be taken into consideration. With regard to NVEQF, he supported the proposal. He requested HRM to clarify the definition of no-detention policy as it is creating some misunderstanding among students and parents. He suggested that at least 50-60% attendance is essential for allowing a student to move in the next class. He also stated that ban on corporal punishment is also being misinterpreted as total lack of discipline which is not a healthy trend. He also suggested that the role of Commission of Protection of Child Rights needs to be clearly defined alongwith process of looking into the complaints.

HRM

HRM clarified that at present there is no draft Bill on Prohibition of Malpractices at school level and Ministry of HRD is planning to set up a Committee with State Education Ministers to prepare a draft Bill on this matter as State Government are running the schools and they are in a better position to present the case. MHRD will give the State Governments a model draft in higher education for purpose of reference. With regard to extension of RTE to secondary education, HRM clarified that it will be moved only with extensive discussions with CAGE members. As regards no-detention, HRM clarified that no-detention does not mean that a student may stay away from school and shall get promoted.

Shri P. K. Shahi, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Bihar

Hon'ble Education Minister of Bihar sought clarification from HRM as to how the State Government could regulate unfair practices being followed by the institutions set up under Article 29 of the Constitution. He also wants to know as to how to regulate unfair practices being followed by regulator itself. He was of the view that generally it is found that regulators of the Central or State Government institutions themselves indulge in unfair practices. He also pointed out that such proceedings should not be cumbersome. With regard to extension of RTE to secondary schools, he endorsed the

proposal. However, he suggested that present funding pattern of 65:35 needs to be reviewed. He informed that State Government would require Rs.20,000 crore (one time requirement) for implementation of RTE. He, therefore, urged that for initial period of implementation of RTE, the funding pattern should be 90:10. He also suggested that there should not be mandatory provision while extending RTE to secondary schools and the limitations of the State should also be taken into account. He also urged that while finalising/altering the list of schools under RMSA, States should be taken into confidence.

HRM

With regard to educational institutions set up under Article 29 of the Constitution, HRM made it clear that right to manage does not mean to right to mismanage. In the case of minority schools they cannot adopt unfair practices on the pretext of Fundamental Rights. With regard to regulator, HRM clarified that in the long run everything will be based on self-disclosure. The institutions will have to disclose all the information in the website as it has been followed by AICTE. If there is variation in the information given in the prospectus and website, then it should be treated as unfair practice. He further clarified that Government of India will form a Committee and it is the Committee that will decide about the provisions, regulations and protection under the proposed legislation.

Shri N.K. Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Sikkim

Hon'ble Education Minister, Sikkim in his opening remarks welcomed the proposals contained in the agenda. He stated that in so far as vocational education is concerned, it was started in the State in 2004 and it continued upto 2007 vocational training is being done from State funds. However, State Government is continuing vocational training from state funds. Regarding RTE, he requested to consider age group of 5 also. As far as Sikkim is concerned, he said that enough children are not coming in Primary classes as basic education has not been provided to them. He supported the law to prohibit unfair practices and felt that it should be stringently

implemented and the State will try to follow the norms laid down by the Central Government.

HRM while responding to the observations of Education Minister, Sikkim, clarified that the issue of right to education of children of five years of age is a policy matter which has to be decided at the level of Central Government and there are other issues involved many of which are not within the mandate of Ministry of Human Resource Development. He mentioned that Government has a commitment to spend 6% of GDP on education but we have not reached that level so far. He further pointed out that which Central Government is spending more funds on education, the amount being spent by the State Governments is coming down. HRM stated that earlier we used to spend 3.78% of GDP on education and the share of the Centre was 0.6% which has now gone up from 0.6% to 0.9% while the State share has gone down, which shows that State Government is not spending enough funds on education.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Rajasthan

Hon'ble Education Minister of Rajasthan brought to the notice of HRM latest instructions issued by this Ministry stating that girls' hostel will be constructed only at those places where Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya have been set up. He stated that there are many blocks in Rajasthan where Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas have been set up but not senior secondary schools. Therefore, he urged that the issue of location of the hostel should be left to the State Government. He also stated that the Central Government releases Rs.36 lakh for the construction of girls' hostels which is inadequate. He urged that this amount should be enhanced. He also brought to the notice of HRM that CPWD rates given by the Centre for construction of model schools is about 25% less than the rate of States. Therefore, State is facing difficult to construct model schools at these rates. With regard to extension of RTE to secondary education, he suggested that physical education should also be included. He also suggested that Central Government should also provide financial help to those students who are participating in sports.

Secretary (SE&L)

She clarified that Central Government has not issued any instruction stating that girls' hostel should be set up only in places where Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas are in existence. She was of the view that if the land and other facilities are available, hostels can be opened as per the convenience of the girl students. With regard to unit cost of the construction of girls' hostel, she clarified that Ministry of Finance has already approved states scheduled rates for the construction of girls' hostel.

Smt. Hemavati, CAGE Member

With regard to implementation of RTE, she said that its implementation has started in Pudducherry. She also informed that 25% reservation for weaker sections in the neighbourhood as per RTE has started. She suggested that more teeth is needed for implementation of RTE. She, therefore, supported the proposed Bill to check unfair practices in the school education. She indicated that the compulsory promotions up to class-VIII is going well, but suggested to put in place a mechanism to maintain quality, which is very important.

Shri Pratap Jena, Hon'ble Minister of School and Mass Education, Odisha

Hon'ble Minister of School and Mass Education, Odisha at the outset appreciated HRM for initiating discussions on these important agenda and expressed happiness that when implemented, they will give a new dimension to the education sector of the country. He cautioned that when the law to prohibit unfair practices in school education is implemented, care should be taken that there should not be any harassment to private schools by taking advantage of this law. He felt that the funds being provided for improvement of playgrounds for high schools by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are not adequate and suggested for making provision in the RMSA for improving the playgrounds of High Schools. He also stated that as per the RTE norms, there is a provision to provide a part-time Instructor for Physical Education for Upper Primary Schools. He suggested for making a provision to provide full time

Physical Education Instructor to each and every school. He also urged HRM to include government aided schools under the RMSA to enable them to avail the government funds for improving infrastructure facilities. He also demanded for hostel facility in model schools, and stated model schools will be more useful if hostels are provided. He requested for making an amendment in the RTE to provide one teacher in every class in elementary education.

Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (School Education & Literacy) in her reply to the observations made by Education Minister of Odisha stated that the Ministry has moved a proposal to Ministry of Finance, for extending RMSA to government aided schools and expressed hope of getting approval very soon. Regarding hostels for model schools, she informed that depending upon the kind of outlay that the Ministry may get for the XII Five Year Plan, Government might consider including hostel in the model school scheme. She also informed that the Government will request the working group on secondary education to consider this proposal.

HRM emphasised that in order to reach out to the marginalised sections, they have to be provided with residential accommodation. He also endorsed earlier the suggestions for increasing the frequency of CABE meetings to twice a year.

Shri Vinod Raina, CABE Member

With regard to National Vocational Education Qualification Framework, he welcomed that a Committee has been set up under the Hon'ble Education Minister of Bihar. He felt that most of the vocational educational programmes end up strengthening the formal sector whereas the need of the hour is to strengthen the informal sector where about 95% of the labour force is engaged. He suggested setting up a pilot project for informal sector. With regard to the Bill to prohibit unfair practices in school education, he endorsed the proposed legislation. He appreciated that the Bill will be drafted by a Committee and suggested that the Bill should benefit from some of the fine provisions of the State legislations such as that of Tamil Nadu which is already in place and has some very good provisions. As regard extending RTE to Secondary schools, he congratulated HRM for taking this step and highlighted

the importance of pre-school education, which he said as the basis for giving a positive affirmation to the first generation learners whose parents are not educated. He suggested that due to financial constraints, though it may not be possible to start with three years of pre-schooling but it can be started one year in the beginning, which should not be part of an Anganwadi, but should be a part of a primary school. Regarding the quality dimensions of the RTE Act, he suggested that Central Government may issue an advisory which should include information on no-detention norms or ban on corporal punishment and continuous and comprehensive evaluation system. He felt that it is good that so many legislations are made, but legislations by themselves do not work unless there is a total societal support for them. He requested the Central Government to create an action plan, at least up to March, 2013- to monitor the implementation of RTE, child identification, child mapping, formation of HDPs, etc.

HRM

The skills to be offered under the NVEQF will be local specific. The States have been asked to identify locally relevant courses which would be integrated into the national standards being developed.

Smt. Geeta Bhukkal, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Haryana

Hon'ble Education Minister of Haryana thanked HRM for agreeing to convene the meeting of CABE twice in a year. With regard to law for prohibition of unfair practices, she endorsed the proposal as this will end malpractices being followed by the private schools. She also suggested to provide ID number to school teachers working in private schools so that their educational qualifications, salary and other records are maintained. As regards extension of RTE to secondary schools, she supported this step and also termed the government expenditure on education, as an investment. However, she urged HRM to consider to defer implementation of extension of RTE in secondary schools by one or two years to enable the states to implement RTE satisfactorily. With regard to NVEQF, she stated that this issue has

already been discussed number of times with HRM and a Committee has also been formed. She was of the view that NVEQF will help India in supplying skilled manpower to various countries. She urged all the States to prepare road maps on this issue and also to give their input to move forward.

HRM

With regard to extending RTE to secondary schools, HRM clarified that a CABE committee will be constituted to look into this issue and Government will make legislation on the recommendations of this committee.

Shri Nyeiwang Konyak , Hon'ble Minister of School Education, Nagaland

Hon'ble Education Minister, Nagaland supported the legislative proposal for extension of RTE to secondary schools. He also supported the NVEQF and suggested that carpentry, blacksmith, agriculture education, health education, physical education and music can be integrated into the proposed NVEQF. He also endorsed the law for unfair practises in secondary education and felt that it will check unfair practices being followed in private schools. He further stated that the State has to construct three more teacher training institutes in the newly created districts for which the Minister has sought support from the central government.

Shri Peerzada Mohd Syed, Hon'ble Minister of School Education, J&K.

Hon'ble Education Minister of Jammu & Kashmir congratulated HRM and members of CABE for bring out a proposal to check the malpractices being followed by the private schools. He stated that the proposed Bill will prevent unfair practices being followed by the private schools in admission, fee, exploitation of teachers, donations, etc. With regard to NVEQF, he endorsed the proposal and was hopeful that this will give job opportunities to youth of this country. He also supported the legislative proposal for extension of RTE to secondary schools and urged HRM to implement this initiative. He also urged for enhancement of funds for girls' hostel.

Ms. Teesta Seetalvad, CABE Member

Ms. Teesta Seetalvad thanked HRM for accepting the suggestion to hold CABE Meeting twice a year and suggested that CABE should spend half a day in one of the meetings only for RTE compliance. She pointed out that if we look at RTE compliance, it can be seen that States have done excellent work on both quality and access and there could be very fruitful meetings across the states, to share ideas & best practices and learn from each other. She welcomed that physical education and sports are being emphasized in school education and suggested the Ministry to consider giving training on self defence and martial arts options to girls in school because crimes against girls and women are growing. She mentioned that there are culture specific martial arts in the country like Kalari payattu and other options which may be explored. She suggested that it should be a component of both physical education and cultural education. Regarding Vocational Education, she felt that the Government should ensure that there is democratic thinking vis-à-vis choice available.

Shri Baidyanath Ram, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Jharkhand

Hon'ble Minister of Jharkhand while welcoming the proposal for extension of RTE to Secondary school suggested for in depth consultation and examination. He also suggested that RTE which has just been enacted, requires thorough examination as to whether it is successfully implemented or not. He also referred to views expressed by State Education Ministers about the shortage of teachers, infrastructure and expressed apprehension that it would take at least 5 years for implementation of RTE. With regard to law for prohibition of unfair practices at schools, he welcomed the initiative as it will check unfair practices being followed by private institutions. He also mentioned that State Government has set up Education Tribunal in 2007 which is not very effective. He, therefore, urged HRM that the law likely to be enacted for prohibiting unfair practices in schools should be made as effective as RTE Act. With regard to provision of providing 25% seats to students belonging to weaker sections in private schools/neighbourhood schools under the RTE Act, he desired to know whether

Centre and State governments have to bear the expenditure, the ratio of expenditure may be clarified. He also urged that there should be a provision of hostel facility under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme.

Smt. Archana Chitnis, Hon'ble Minister of School Education, Madhya Pradesh.

Hon'ble Education Minister, Madhya Pradesh, while welcoming the agenda points on School Education, suggested that there should be rating of the schools, accreditation of the educational institutions in technical education and according to the rating; they should make a self declaration of the fee and other things that they charge. Regarding the NVEQF, she stated that it is a welcome step. She, however, suggested that agriculture and allied sectors should also be addressed. She also opined that there was a need to have a plan for conservation and research and development of indigenous knowledge. There should be provisions for certification of people with expertise but no formal education. Regarding extending RTE to Secondary level, she welcomed the step. She, however, agreed with the views of other State Education Ministers to examine this issue in depth, to review and think over the experiences, problems and bottlenecks that the states are facing in implementation of RTE in their respective States and if any modifications are required to make this programme more implementable, the same should be done. Regarding the languages, she urged HRM to include Sanskrit in that list, in addition to 22 listed languages and regional languages.

Shri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Karnataka

Hon'ble Education Minister, Karnataka felt the urgency of passing the prohibition of unfair practices Bill and finalise a time table for its implementation as education now-a days is becoming a big industry. He highlighted the unfair practises being adopted by private school managements and suggested to deal such issues very seriously. Regarding extending RTE to secondary level, he suggested that there is a need to see the implementation, progress, shortcomings with regard to implementation of RTE and the difficulties being faced by the State Governments

should be taken into account. He was of the view that after these assessments, necessary steps could be taken to implement RTE at secondary level.

Shri Lalsawta, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Mizoram

Hon'ble Education Minister, Mizoram while welcoming extension of RTE to Secondary level stated that the implementation of RTE at the elementary level has just started and the state government have not been able to completely implement it. He suggested that RTE at secondary level may be implemented after a few of years on the basis of experience of implementation of RTE at elementary. Regarding the unfair practices Bill, he requested to extend it to all those professional post matriculate institutions as he had been approached by several students complaining against increasing of fees, particularly during mid-term. He also pointed out that some times the institutions extend the duration of the courses and charges fees for extended period. Unless the student pays the fees, institutions do not release their original certificates. He also pointed out about the unhealthy practice of not holding classes in class IX and XI. Students are taught only in classes for two years targeting examination year Class X and class XII. He expressed confidence that this problem will be taken care of by the proposed legislation.

Shri Rajindera Darda, Hon'ble Minister of School Education, Maharashtra.

Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Maharashtra, complimented HRM for including extending right of children to compulsory education to secondary level as an agenda for this meeting. He stated that compulsory primary and secondary education combined with the vocational education, is the foundation of a vibrant economy. While talking about the prohibition of unfair practices bill, he pointed out that Government of Maharashtra has introduced a Bill during the last session of the Assembly regarding fee regulation and curbing of unfair practices which is under active consideration of joint legislative committee. In the draft Bill, the factors for determination of fees by the school managements, approval of fees by the parent teacher associations, and committees constituted at the regional and state level have been prescribed. He

stated that Government of Maharashtra is contemplating to cover pre-primary under the school education. He also said that Government of Maharashtra is contemplating to have common entrance test for teachers of secondary and higher secondary schools. State Government is also in the process of introducing a legislation for self-financing schools. Regarding the extension of RTE to secondary education, while supporting the proposal, he stated that it would have tremendous impact in decreasing the drop out rate of girls and improving higher education status. Regarding the NVEQF, he felt the need to set up an employer-driven demand-driven, training, assessment and certification system for vocational training. He urged that private schools should also be covered under RMSA to achieve universalisation of secondary education in the next five years. He pointed out that though the general size of the annual plan has grown up; the sharing pattern gradually became unfavourable to the states leading to heavy financial burden with the implementation of RMSA and other schemes. He stated that Central-State share is changing to 50:50 from the next year, which will lead to huge financial burden on the states. Therefore, for implementation of the RMSA, model schools and other schemes, there is huge financial burden on the States for which financial assistance should be extended by the Centre.

Shri D.D. Thaisii, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Manipur

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Manipur while supporting the agenda items discussed in the meeting, requested to speed up and finalise the processes so that all these issues could be translated into action as soon as possible.

HRM

HRM while concluding the morning discussions stated that with the unanimous support on all the agenda items, Ministry will have to set up CAGE Committee on each agenda which will involve Ministers, members of CAGE and other people/experts that they wish to co-opt, so that there could be wide ranging discussions. HRM was hopeful that these issues could be finalised in the next three months. He stated that he would like next meeting of the CAGE before the end of the year so that there are

two meetings this year and then from next year, a meeting will be held in the early part of the year and another at the end of the year – February/March and September/October would be appropriate months to hold these meetings.

AGENDA ITEM-4: RECOMMENDATIONS OF VICE-CHANCELLORS' CONFERENCE INCLUDING REFORMS IN AFFILIATION SYSTEM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Presentation by Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman UGC on the recommendations of Vice Chancellors' Conference including reforms in affiliation system in Higher Education.

Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman UGC, in his presentation, stated that UGC had recently convened a meeting of Vice-Chancellors of all state and central universities. He stated that a number of recommendations have been made which will be of relevance to the states. He briefly explained the purpose of holding the conference. He also sought guidance and solicited the comments with regard to these recommendations which will help in formulation of XII Five Year Plan. He stated that the conference deliberated upon 8 important themes covering almost all aspects of higher education like sustaining enhanced equity and access, engagement and outcome, content and quality, research and innovation, faculty development, models of financing higher education and good governance. He also stated that all the VCs who participated opined that there is a need to create an authentic database in higher education and University management information system should be put in place. He also stated that VCs' conference also suggested emphasis on policy of inclusion for both public and private institutions because each institution is a social institution and it should have a social agenda. The VCs also suggested for providing greater flexibility and autonomy. They also suggested for setting up of innovative incubators to create necessary linkages between the industries and research labs. In the said conference it was also suggested that central government must supplement funding of state universities and their colleges through additional grants. It was also suggested that there is a need of appropriate institutional structures for good governance, through

appropriate policy frame work, and there has to be greater autonomy. Depoliticisation of the campuses, and their freedom from political and bureaucratic interference was also surfaced during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM-5: NATIONAL BOOK PROMOTION POLICY.

Presentation made by Shri Amit Khare, Joint Secretary, MHRD.

Shri Amit Khare, Joint Secretary in his presentation briefly touched upon back ground of the draft National Book Promotion Policy. He referred to the relevant paragraphs of the National Policy of Education 1986 (as amended in 1992) relating to book promotion and libraries emphasizing on the importance of this subject. He also referred to the remarks of HRM in the meeting of National Book Promotion Council, held on 25th September, 2009 stating that we should have a policy and then develop suitable programme of action for book promotion in the next five years. He informed that Ministry had constituted a task force and after consultations with various stake holders and deliberations of task force on seven occasions, the proposed draft is being placed before the CABE for the considered view of the CABE members. He also stated that in the proposed draft entire spectrum of book promotion right from authorship to the publication, distribution and making books available have been addressed. He stated that in the policy it has been suggested that there should be special cell at different levels, which would encourage and empower the physically-challenged and the visually-impaired to have greater access. It has also been suggested that in the master plans that are developed, some particular space could be allocated for the book shop.

AGENDA ITEM-6: PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

Presentation made by Shri Rajesh Sachdeva, Director, CIIL, Mysore

Shri Rajesh Sachdeva, Director, Central Institute of Indian languages, Mysore made a presentation on preservation of endangered languages. He informed that the XI Plan provides for launching a Scheme "Bharat Bhasha Vikas Yojna" and the first

time it was made visible about protection, preservation and development endangered languages. He stated that the root for moving forward in this direction goes to NCF which stipulates that every community should have a say and access to their own language in schools and there should be quality reading materials and have equal opportunity to participate. The mission of the Bhasha Vikash Yojana is to safeguard our entire linguistic heritage and promote healthy multi-linguistic with strong roots in mother tongue. He stated that there are 22 languages in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution, however, our effort is also to preserve those languages which are not included in the VIII Schedule. He stated that there are 100 non- Scheduled languages, out of which 75 are endangered as per the UNESCO document. He stated that people have got cultural and educational rights where any section of the citizen of India residing in the territory and any part of having a distinct language or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the language. However linguistic diversity is a part of our collective history, and therefore, Government has a stake to develop all languages. He stated that a number of languages are in danger because they don't enjoy institutional support. He suggested creation of more job opportunities by involving linguists and web based technology. He suggested several activities like training of teachers, preparation of text books and dictionaries and grammars, encyclopaedia, pictorial glossaries, documentation of languages etc.

Shri D.D.Thaisii, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Manipur

Hon'ble Education Minister, Manipur stressed the importance of maintaining transparency in appointment of Vice-Chancellors in Universities and unnecessary interference needs to be avoided. He stated that since all three Universities in Manipur are under the Central Government, the State does not have any objection if any guidelines are adopted. The Minister welcomed the National Book Promotion Policy. Regarding protection and preservation of endangered languages, he stated that in Manipur alone, there are a number of tribal dialects which are not included in this programme of 100 languages. He suggested, if possible to include these ethnic languages from Manipur which are not spoken by less than 10,000 population.

Shri Lalsawta, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Mizoram

Hon'ble Education Minister of Mizoram felt that the National Book Promotion Policy is very timely because the children are getting addicted to computers, internet and of course TVs. The proposal made is very exhaustive and implementation would be fruitful. Regarding the recommendations of the Vice-Chancellors Conference, he was of the view that it would require proper implementation. He also stated that in the matter of development of colleges, state Governments have been bypassed to a great extent. He requested UGC to associate the State Governments in the matter of development of colleges.

HRM informed that there are two additional items on the agenda which were not put up, but sought the views of CABE (i) need for integration of sports and physical education with the academic curriculum as proposed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and (ii) ten Great Thinkers of modern India in the syllabi of Government schools which has been proposed by the Ministry of Culture.

MS. Teesta Seetalvad , CABE Member

Smt. Teesta Seetalvad, stated that Book Promotion Policy and the language policy are very heartening, very timely and very much needed. She suggested roping in TV Channels particularly in promoting the Book reading habit scheme that will facilitate taking it to the last person.

Shri Laxmikant Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Madhya Pradesh

The recommendations of Vice-Chancellors' Conference are very encouraging and many of these have already been implemented in the State. He assured that remaining recommendations if agreed by the CABE will be implemented. He informed that State Government is having financial problem and therefore, urged the Centre to extend cooperation. With regard to private participation in higher education, he stated

that if Central Government frames a model in this regard, State Government will also make similar efforts. He also said that State Government will fully support if model schools are opened in backward area. He also stated that many universities are opening branches in other States and are charging exorbitant fees from students. He urged Centre to issue instructions to check these practices. With regard to Book Promotion Policy, he appreciates the same and said that it will promote languages and he also suggested that books in Hindi literature should be made available.

Shri Nyeiwang Konyak , Hon'ble Minister of School Education, Nagaland

Hon'ble Education Minister of Nagaland stated that Nagaland has 17 local dialects in the State and that tribal language officers are appointed for 17 tribes under School education. He demanded local textbooks in tribal languages.

Shri Jenab Abdul Gani Malik, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, J&K

Hon'ble Education Minister of Jammu & Kashmir stated that the need of the hour is to diversify to the relevant areas of knowledge. He stated that there is big gap in enrolment in graduation and post graduation and this poses a major challenge. He also drew attention of HRM on latest development taking place in the education sector. With regard to PPP mode, he was of the view that these modules need to be examined and expenditure on education should be enhanced. He endorsed the recommendations made by VCs' Conference and also suggested that distance mode education should be given priority and technology could be used to check the mad rush for getting admission in colleges and universities. He strongly suggested giving priority on area specific studies.

Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Chhatisgarh

Hon'ble Education Minister of Chhatisgarh stated that the State Government has to open more institutions of higher learning and Government organisations as also private sector is coming forward in this regard. He suggested that we should fix

responsibility on these entrepreneurs. He said that at present 5% funding cost comes under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). He suggested that it should be raised to 25%. He also informed that Central Public Sector Enterprises located in Chhatisgarh have done a commendable work under CSR. He urged that universities and colleges which are likely to be opened in near future should be set up first in backward areas. He suggested that Central Public Sector Enterprises should step in to finance for expansion in higher education. He also suggested that a provisions of enrolling 75% student from own State should be made in the universities being set up in near future. He also urged UGC to relax the norm for filling up teachers as about 50% post are vacant in Chhatisgarh. With regard to book promotion policy, he stated that the State Government has enacted library law and every district has a library. He urged that Chhatisgarh language spoken by more than 1.25 crore people, should be included in the VIII Schedule.

Shri Bhanwar Lal Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of Primary & Secondary Education, Rajasthan

With regard to suggestions of VCs' conference, particularly with reference to ratio of universities and colleges, Hon'ble Education Minister of Rajasthan stated that it will be very difficult for Rajasthan to implement this suggestion because Rajasthan is the largest State geographically. He mentioned that owing to constraint of funds, Rajasthan is coming out with PPP mode colleges at 27 places where there is no Government or private college. He stated that state government is giving them Rs.2 crore as financial assistance under this scheme. He clarified that the students of universities having 50 college could be applicable for small States; larger states like Madhya Pradesh, U.P, and Rajasthan who have large population, cannot be brought under this norm. Hon'ble Education Minister, Rajasthan further pointed out that there is need to bring down the norms of requirement of land for setting up colleges for example two acres in cities and five acres in rural areas, as it is very difficult to get two acres of land in cities and five acres in rural areas. With regard to representation of SC/STs and OBCs in universities, he suggested that recruitment of lecturers in Universities should be done by Public Service Commission as a single unit and present

system of splitting of departments with reference to promotion goes against the interest of these categories.

HRM appreciated the suggestions and said that in so far as the selection process of faculty is concerned, a separate meeting could be convened.

Shri Vinod Raina, CABE Member.

Shri Raina, CABE Member in his remarks appreciated HRM for holding the meeting and placing before CABE of the issues of great importance which requires considerable amount of thought for finding its solution. He also appreciated HRM for showing urgency in reforms of higher education. He was of the view that expansion of GER, with quality, is a question central to India's development. He congratulated HRM for involving great number of people in the series of consultations. He was of the view that the country does not only need to have a large skilled workforce, but efforts should also be to encourage people who are at the forefront of research and innovation. He was of the view that we have committed some mistakes in school sector by rapid expansion without looking into definition of school and also the issues relating to teachers. He cautioned that we should not repeat the same mistake in higher education sector. He, therefore, urged that expansion of higher education and quality concern should work at tandem because maintaining balance between expansion and retaining equity and quality, is a very challenging proposition. He also suggested that the proposals to be taken up within the university should be discussed with all the stakeholders including teachers who run the university. He was of the view that college teachers should not be treated as labour force. He also suggested that any person in college or university should be given an opportunity to give their suggestions through a process of regional consultations, academic conferences, etc.

Prof. Vasudevan

Prof. Vasudevan while supporting Shri Raina highlighted the importance of humanities in higher education saying in the broadest sense – humanities i.e. from

jurisprudence to history, languages, literature, art etc. are vital for the next generation and for the future of the society and the country.

HRM

While replying to Shri Vinod Riana's suggestions, HRM clarified that in the case of some of the legislations for e.g. National Commission for Higher Education & Research, the kind of consultation made has perhaps never been done in the history of the country. Similarly, in the case of reforms in IITs too, there was a dialogue with academics. So, those processes are taking place, but that does not mean the reform process should wait for years as children are getting older. Regarding the Semester System, he felt that if we depend only on consultations, practically nothing may come out because half of the people may say it is good and other half may say it is not good, therefore, reform process cannot be stopped. He requested the CABE to agree to have a Committee of Ministers, they may co-opt anybody they like, let them talk to the faculty, to the vice-chancellors and other stakeholders. He also suggested to have a parallel process through the CABE.

Smt. Geeta Bhukkal, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Haryana

With regard to integration of physical education, Hon'ble Education Minister of Haryana stated that inclusion of sports in higher education will encourage students to go for higher education as some of the students are only interested in sports. She further stated that inclusion of physical education would help in checking the drop out rate. She also apprised that Government of Haryana is contemplating to bring out a sports policy; this will generate interest among students for study. With regard to establishment of universities under PPP mode, she stated that many private universities are being setting up in Haryana bringing the courses which are profit oriented and which are operating on commercial purpose. He urged HRM to take up this issue so that our general education should not left behind. With regard to recommendations of Vice Chancellors' Conference, she stated that many recommendations contained in the report have already been implemented in her state.

The State Government has already taken initiatives for commencing evening shift for maximum utilisation of existing infrastructure and the issue of faculty shortage has also been addressed. She also suggested that percentage of internal assessment should be enhanced from 10% to 20% to minimise absenteeism. With regard to National Book Promotion Policy, she was of the view that it should be promoted and reading habits should be inculcated amongst students. She also suggested that adequate sitting arrangements to be made in the library.

Shri N.K. Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Sikkim

Hon'ble Education Minister, Sikkim informed that Sikkim has only one Central University and four private Universities. In Central University, semester system has already commenced and it is running smoothly. With regard to implementation of semester system in private universities, he welcomed the suggestion of HRM to involve State Education Ministers and UGC to take this issue to a logical conclusion.

Prof. Vasuben N. Trivedi, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Gujarat

Hon'ble Education Minister, Gujarat said that much discussion has taken place in education and she was of the view that we should give thought about the objective of our education. She suggested that respect to the nation should be linked with the education. She also suggested to ponder about the present teaching methods. With regard to book promotion policy, she suggested that there is no need to help publishers and writer as lot of books and literatures are already available. The need of an hour is to guide children how to extract the benefits from the books. She referred to the initiatives taken by the Gujarat Government for book promotion.

Shri Rakesh Dhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Uttar Pradesh

With regard to Model Colleges under PPP mode, Hon'ble Minister of UP said that many State Education Ministers are not agreeable to this proposal and suggested that a consolidated plan may be prepared and grants may be released in two instalments to enable the state governments to procure the land and construct the building. As

regards setting up of model schools in low GER districts, he suggested that criteria for requirement of land measuring 10 acre, 5 acre for setting up of model school may be relaxed as land is not available to this extent. He also referred that this issue was also raised by him in the last CABE meeting. He also raised the issue of withholding of 80% grants by Centre for payment of arrears of revised pay scales to teachers of universities and colleges, on the basis of recommendations 6th Pay Commission. He informed that despite taking up the matter at the highest level, this has not been solved so far. He also drew the attention of UGC for financing the colleges and universities for holding more seminars and research workshops which will improve the quality of higher education. He also urged Government to give financial assistance to un-aided colleges as they are playing vital role in spreading education in the State.

Shri P.K. Shahi, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Bihar

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Bihar stated that he supports the proposal for setting up of new universities to meet the requirement for pursuing higher education. He, however, suggested that the need of the hour is to see that they also maintain academic standards. He also suggested a policy to be framed at national level on this issue. He strongly supported that power of appointment of Vice Chancellor should be vested with political executive as it is they who are answerable to the public. He also stated that accountability should be discussed together with autonomy. With regard to recommendations of Vice-Chancellors' Conference, he was of the view that universities should be given autonomy in matters which concern to academics. However, as far as autonomy in governance is concerned, he suggested that it should be examined in depth before taking any view. He did not endorse the recommendations of Vice Chancellors with regard to autonomy to VC to function in the way he/she wishes to run the university. He was of the view that universities are being financed by Centre and State Governments and Government is responsible for their activities, therefore, the universities must be accountable to them. He also endorsed the suggestion for setting up of a Committee to look into entire gamut of issues like affiliation, autonomy, etc.

HRM

With regard to autonomy, HRM clarified that Vice Chancellors' Conference, suggested norm based funding, autonomy in curriculum, syllabus and selection of teaching staff. He further clarified that autonomy does not mean to allow VC to do as per his whims but to act within the parameters of Act, Rules and Statutes.

Shri Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, West Bengal

Shri Bartya Basu, Hon'ble Minister of, Education Minister West Bengal in his address welcomed the proposal for preservation of the languages and pointed out that there are five non-scheduled endangered languages spoken in West Bengal such as Sherpa, Tamang and Bhuij etc. He also suggested that Central Institute of Indian Languages may be involved for promoting these endangered languages. He also welcomed the proposal from Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports for Introduction of sports and physical education alongwith academic curriculum. He invited attention regarding the prevailing unemployment of students doing classical dances, singing art theatre etc. and suggested to introduce these subjects from school level particularly in XI and XII so that some employment could be ensured for these students.

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Assam

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Assam stated that every University in the State has 150-250 affiliated colleges and Universities only conduct an examination. University don't even revise the syllabi, and no Vice-Chancellors visits affiliated colleges. He suggested that examination and grant of degree to colleges should be segregated from the control of University and University should be promoted as a centre of excellence or in stand alone basis. He was of the view that Vice-Chancellor's recommendations are more concerning about strengthening the financial system in their own Universities rather than reforming the higher education as a package. He suggested that the Committee which HRM has promised to be constituted should be represented by people with great knowledge and expertise.

HRM in reply to the Assam Education Minister pointed out that academics have been included in the Committee.

Shri Bosiram Siram, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Arunachal Pradesh

Hon'ble Minister of Arunachal Pradesh was of the view that recommendations of VCs' Conference are fair. With regard to National Book Promotion policy, he supported it. As far as protection and preservation of endangered languages is concerned, he stated that Arunachal Pradesh is a multi-lingual and multi-cultural state and there are more than 100 tribals different languages. Therefore, there is a need to promote multilingualism.

Ms. A. Hemavathi, CABE Member

With regard to ten great thinkers, she suggested that the list of 10 great thinkers of modern India must be finalised with lot of discussions. Regarding integration of sports and physical education, she suggested to disseminate information regarding the role of school in the sportsman's development.

Shri K.K. Aboobacker, CABE Member

He congratulated HRM for his farsightedness in bringing reforms in education in the country. He pointed out that the National Educational Policy came into existence in 1986 which is twenty five years ago. He desired to know if any further reform is on the anvil. Regarding the faculty development initiatives and inter university resource sharing, Shri Abu Backer stated that proposal to create Indian Education Service is a wonderful suggestion and needs to be implemented in the earliest. He further stated that establishing Indian Education Service has several benefits, the faculty selection will be made on All India level thereby discrimination can be avoided. He also said that the reservation policy can be more effectively implemented if the selection entire faculty of the Public Universities is carried out under a single agency. He also suggested that International Institutions may be allowed to start their International

campuses in our country to enable Indian students to study in such institutions without leaving the country. This will not only provide an international environment for Indian students but will also prevent the brain drain to a large extent.

HRM, in response to Shri Aboobacker's request for new education policy, explained the procedure to be followed in setting up a commission i.e. Ministry will propose the names of the committee and the Cabinet will finalize the names and then only it will be announced.

Dr. C. Subramanian, CABE Member

Dr. C. Subramanian urged that the recommendations of the Vice Chancellor's Conference may be implemented without any delay. He also suggested to constitute a committee of educational experts including teachers for framing New National Education Policy. With regard to recommendation of the Vice Chancellors for giving incentives to teachers working in rural areas and state universities, he suggested that there should be parity in the age of retirement, as per the norms of the central universities and some incentives should be given to teachers to retain the talented persons in rural areas. He also stated that this will also check the exodus of movement of teachers from state universities to central universities as the retirement age in Centre Universities is high compared to the State Universities. Regarding protection and preservation of endangered languages, he suggested that incentives may be given to the students who are interested in studying in the endangered languages so that they can be preserved. He also suggested that if there is a language which is spoken by 1000 people or 500 people that is also to be protected. He also endorsed the National Book Promotion Policy as suggested by experts. He felt that there is an urgent need to create National Education Organisation (NEO) to maintain quality in education by setting standards and benchmarks for comparisons amongst courses, institutions, and individuals.

In his concluding remarks, HRM stated that the meeting was very constructive and the members expressed their views very openly and frankly and we have been able to evolve a consensus of the meeting. Thereafter, HRM read out the consensus

points emerging of the 58th Meeting of CABE. A copy of the consensus points is given at Annexure-II.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
