

Minutes of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held on 19th June 2010 at New Delhi

The 57th meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education was held on 19th June 2010 under the Chairmanship of Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India. List of participants is at **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 Chairman of CABE and Minister of Human Resource Development. Smt. Ambika Soni, Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Smt. D. Purandeswari, Hon'ble Vice Chairman (CABE) and Minister of State for HRD, Shri Pratek Patil, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports. Hon'ble Education Ministers of States/UTs, distinguished members of CABE, Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Secretaries and Additional Secretaries, Government of India, Heads of various autonomous organizations, academicians, senior officials of Central and State Governments attending the CABE meeting. She also offered heartfelt condolence on the sad demise of Padma Shri Rama Ranjan Mukherjee, who was a member of CABE.

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 about the last CABE meeting held on 31st August 2009 and said that since the last meeting, many developments have taken place in the education sector. She referred to the Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, which has become operational w.e.f. 1st April 2010. She also mentioned that under the able guidance of Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of HRD, a number of landmark legislations has been introduced such as Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical education, Medical Education and Universities Bill, Education Tribunals Bill, the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority Bill and Foreign Education Institutions (Regulatory of Entry and Operation) Bill. She also informed that with the passing of Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, it has become the responsibility of the States as well as Centre to implement it, in letter and spirit. She urged all the members to give their

valuable suggestions and commitment for the improvement in the education sector. Once again, welcoming Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, other Union Ministers, Hon'ble Ministers of State Government and distinguished members of CAGE, she requested Chairman, CAGE to kindly set the tone of the meeting by giving his opening remarks.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development and Chairman, CAGE dwelt upon many vital issues concerning education sector in his opening remarks. He referred to the last meeting of the CAGE held on 31st August 2009 and mentioned that CAGE meetings are historic because they determine the architecture and structure of education of our children and also for the unborn child. He also referred the Conference of State Education Ministers held on 18th June 2010 which was very constructive and covered some aspect of the education sector. In his opening remarks, he made it clear that given our federal structure, consultations with the States, on most of the issues is required. He said that we want to ensure that any milestone in terms of policy should not be moved forward in the absence of general consensus. In view of this he has convened the meeting to discuss various issues with the different stakeholders. He said that we cannot be slave of past and we must move forward to meet the challenges both of today and tomorrow. In this context, he referred to the large population between age group of 15 to 64 years and said that our working population will be youngest in the world by the year 2030, and we must do all that is possible to adequately empower our people through education and skill development.

Hon'ble HRM also referred to the Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, issues discussed in the State Education Ministers' Conference, viz. ICT Mission, opening of 374 degree colleges, core curriculum in Science and Mathematics, Higher Education and Research Bill and National Academy Depository Bill, 2010. He also stressed stated that all the reforms being initiated in the education sector, are for bright future of our kids and requested cooperation of all stakeholders in this national enterprise. The text of the inaugural speech of Shri Kapil Sibal is at **Annexure-II**.

Smt. Ambika Soni, Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting

Smt. Ambika Soni, Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting, in her speech congratulated the Hon'ble HRM for initiatives taken by him in the improvement in education

sector by doing away the board examination, lessening the burden of school children so that they could really “learn” instead of merely acquire “qualifications or degrees”. In her speech, she also referred to Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009 as a most radical step forward. She urged the State Governments to come forward and support the reform initiative being taken by Govt. of India in the education sector. She mentioned that with the education reforms that have taken place in the recent past, definitely there is an increase in the enrolment of students. However, she also expressed concern about the shortage of teachers thereby forcing parents to resort to extra coaching. She emphasized the need for changing the whole system of schooling and suggested to have extra curricular activities in the areas of sports, arts, film and other cultural activities. She stated that mindset of the parents have changed about the future careers of their kids as new avenues have been opened. She referred to Indian Paintings which are in high demand across the globe with high remuneration. She also referred to opening of new educational institutions where students from disadvantaged categories are getting opportunities of good quality education. This has conveyed an important message across the country. With the expansion of education, the common man now has an access to higher education which has instilled confidence among parents and students. She emphasized that there should be a proper communication strategy to keep the people informed of these initiatives and urged the Hon’ble HRM to incorporate communicating strategy in all the plans and schemes of the Ministry of HRD. While concluding, the Hon’ble Minister of I & B offered the services of her Ministry with regard to communicating to the public the steps taken by MHRD for empowerment through education, Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Saakshar Bharat, initiatives in Higher Education, etc.

Moving to the formal agenda items, Hon’ble HRM requested confirmation of the minutes of 56th meeting of the CABE. The Committee confirmed the minutes of the 56th meeting with the suggestion from Shri M.A. Baby, Hon’ble Education Minister of Kerala that ‘he was against the private participation in education’ may be corrected that “he was not against private participation in education but it should be properly regulated and should not lead to profiteering”. HRM agreed to this change. Thereafter the minutes of 56th Meeting of CABE were confirmed. An Action Taken Report was also circulated to all members.

After the address of Hon’ble Union Minister, the first agenda item namely National Commission for Higher Education & Research was taken up.

Agenda Item No.I: Discussion on Higher Education & Research Bill, 2010.

Initiating the discussion on agenda item No.1, Hon'ble HRM requested the Task Force on National Commission for Higher Education & Research to make a brief presentation on the subject.

Presentation made by Prof. N. R. Madhav Menon, Member of Task Force, National Commission for Higher Education & Research

Prof. N. R. Madhav Menon, Chairman of the Task Force made a presentation on Higher Education and Research Bill, 2010. He informed that the Task Force, after wide consultation on the proposed Bill, is in the process of finalizing the same. He apprised the members that the Task Force visited almost all the States and had wide range of discussions with the officials of State Government, Vice Chancellors of Universities and academics. He also apprised that Task Force has got lot of constructive feedback and they have revised the draft Bill a number of times so as to make it acceptable to all the stakeholders. He also apprised that the Task Force had number of Conferences to elicit the views of different sectors including industry and civil society. He admitted that the proposed Draft Bill is complex and it is quite a difficult task to come out with a draft which adequately covers the concerns of all stakeholders. He briefly spelt out the mandate of the Task Force and also touched upon the recommendations of Committee on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Education (Yash Pal Committee) and National Knowledge Commission on restructuring of higher education. He also dealt with five principles for the proposed Bill, namely;

- (a) unity of the regulatory structure in place of multiplicity of regulators,
- (b) restoration of academic freedom and institutional autonomy of universities and institutions of higher learning,
- (c) prevention of fragmented and compartmentalized approach to knowledge
- (d) continuous engagement of society for achieving equity, access and balanced development of higher education and
- (e) encouraging cutting edge research through network research centres within and outside Government.

In his presentation Prof. Menon also dwelt upon five major structural dimensions of the proposed Commission for Higher Education and Research which are –

- (a) Commission would be independent and accountable to Parliament and to peers of academia,
- (b) a general council having representation of all stakeholders from the States and Union Territories to oversee, advise and review the Commission's work,
- (c) a collegium of self-selected scholars to assist the Commission for setting the goals and standards of higher education,
- (d) an Educational Finance Service Authority or corporation to manage disbursement of grants to universities according to guidelines of the Commission and
- (e) a separate Board for research, promotion and facilitation to develop new knowledge in higher education and research.

Prof. Menon explained that the proposed draft Bill on higher education and research, has been formulated keeping in view these five principles. He also recalled the advisory role played by CUBE before and after Independence. He referred to deliberations of the CUBE meeting to set the policies of education across whole disciplines, across all sectors, school and higher education. In his presentation, he also referred to Radhakrishnan Commission, Kothari Commission, National Knowledge Commission and also Yash Pal Committee, stating that multiplicity of regulators to regulate different sectors of higher education have caused problems not only for universities but also in the management and coordination of education as a whole. In view of this background, he strongly advocated the need for one apex body at the national level for greater coordination and integration of higher education and research.

Prof. Menon also mentioned that the setting up of this apex body will help to restore to the universities and institutions of higher learning, full autonomy for pursuits of academic excellence. He stressed that autonomy of higher education institutions and academic freedom will lead to more innovative and creative activities of the teachers. Another important feature of creation of NCHER would be to integrate knowledge in diverse fields. He apprised the CUBE members that initially the Task Force had not included medical education in the proposed Council. However, consultation with various stakeholders has given feedback to the Task Force for inclusion of medical education in the proposed Council. He also shared with the CUBE members that during consultation with stakeholders, the Task Force also got the feedback that Agricultural Education should also be brought in the ambit of proposed Council. He apprised the CUBE that while university system is not having enough capacity

in the research areas, whereas industry is going ahead in the research work. In order to tap the research output, the Task Force has focused on research related matters also in the proposed Council. In nutshell, NCHER will be a policy planning body and will give directions for future development of higher education. Thus, the proposed NCHER is more a policy planning and goal setting body rather than a regulatory body. NCHER will function through sectoral Committees for different sectors of education. Several Standing Committees for different sectors of higher education will assist the NCHER in discharging its functions. NCHER will have a General Council, as has been suggested in subsequent discussions held at Task Force level. General Council will have the representation of all the States and other concerned stakeholders and will give inputs for policy planning. General Council will have certain powers on NCHER as well. Therefore, the General Council which is representative of all stakeholders, the industry, the professionals, the States, the Union, NGOs and civil society, will advise the NCHER and also correct the course of NCHER. Prof. Menon dealt with meeting with the General Council, representative of States, setting up of Higher Education Councils by all States, etc. He stated that after Independence this is the first time that the State Governments will be directly involved in the higher education policy formulation. He suggested that Central Government will have to renounce some of its powers and share the rest with the States. With regard to composition of collegium, he stated that collegium should not be appointed by the Central Government. He opined that experts in different fields and scholars who are able to give foresight and direction should be included in the collegiums. The Task Force has suggested that the number of members in the collegium should not be more than 30 who are well-known scholars, recognized over different disciplines by the academic community, to give advice out side the General Council to the National Commission for evolving policies, sectoral and otherwise, in higher education. With regard to work relating to disbursement of funds, the Task Force has suggested creation of an independent corporation under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 with an Independence Board of Directors who would work on the directions of NCHER. With regard to research promotion, Prof. Menon stated that at present universities are getting sponsored research. In order to be competitive in a global knowledge society, we need cutting edge research. The Task Force has, therefore, suggested the idea of a separate research board, with independent allocation of budget for linking up with all research institutes in universities and outside, within Government and outside Government.

After presentation made by Prof. Menon, the Hon'ble HRM invited suggestions/views clarifications from all the members of CABE so that Task Force members could clarify the points at the spot.

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

Shri Rakesh Dhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Minister of Education, UP appreciated Hon'ble HRM and Prof. Menon for bringing a legislation on NCHER. He raised certain doubts about the proposed legislation. He stated that on the basis of the Dr. Radhakrishnan Committee of 1948, UGC was set up in 1953 and since then UGC has been in existence and working satisfactorily. There has been a lot of improvement and reforms in the education sector and the contribution and role of UGC, should not be forgotten. He sought a clarification from HRM as to what are the reasons for setting up of NCHER in place of UGC and other regulatory authorities. He further stated this is time of decentralization and all the changes that are taking place in different sectors, demands decentralization. In this context, Shri Tripathi expressed doubts as to whether setting up of NCHER will centralize all the powers with regard to higher education, medical education and all the educational institutions. He was of the opinion that setting up of NCHER is against concept of decentralization. He said that State Governments are competent to set up State Universities within their powers. By setting up of NCHER, State Government will have to obtain the prior permission from the proposed Commission/Council which will tantamount to violation of autonomy of the States. He raised doubt as to whether the proposed Commission having 4-5 members will be able to set right the challenges of education sector which have not been addressed by 3-4 authorities earlier working in this sector. Task Force in their presentation mentioned that they had widely consulted State Governments and Vice Chancellors across the country. Shri Tripathi, however, stated that Government of Uttar Pradesh has not been consulted by the Task Force. With regard to the Governing of the proposed NCHER, the Hon'ble Education Minister suggested that the Vice Chancellors, Teachers, Sahityakar, Journalist, Kala Sanskrit experts should be included in the proposed Governing Council. He also urged Hon'ble HRM to strongly convince the Government of India to meet the requirements of funds for implementation of all the reform measures being taken in the education sector. He also pointed out that in the proposed Bill, a Tribunal has been suggested for settling the disputes relating to education. Vice Chancellors of the Universities may also require to present themselves before such tribunals which will work just like a labour court and appearing in

such Tribunal may not be appropriate for a Vice Chancellor. He also stated that for appointment of VCs, the aspirant will have to get his name registered first, which is not appropriate. VCs of State Universities are appointed by the Governor, therefore, appointment of VC is within the jurisdiction of State and any attempt for taking away the powers of appointment of VC would tantamount to encroachment of jurisdiction of State. Finally the Hon'ble Education Minister of UP urged that conventional education should also be given due attention in the universities. Modern and conventional education should go together.

While responding to Hon'ble Minister of UP, Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary DBT and Member of Task Force, stated that UGC and all other institutions have served the country greatly. With the expansion in higher education, the expectation of students has also gone up as also the complexity of evolution of higher education, science, inter-disciplinary areas, which require innovative solutions, therefore, the proposed Council would meet the additional requirement and serve as an institutional framework for future, appropriate to meet the challenges and difficulties that we have in higher education. The proposed Council will utilize the facilities created by the UGC and other institutions to cope with the future demand in higher education, therefore, UGC is a foundation on which the proposed institutional framework would be built. Dr. Bhan highlighted that the present processes of policy making for selecting people who make policy as also the process by which services are provided, will not be sufficient to serve India's future needs. Highlighting the concerns behind NCHER, he said that the persons responsible for formulation of policy should be free of political intervention. Secondly the processes for providing services, for making decisions, setting guidelines, needs fast improvement and we are expecting that the proposed Council will provide better quality of education and to access larger number of students. They have tried to separate the policy making and provision of services. Policy requires continued sustained attention, thinking, assimilating knowledge, collecting data whereas services require process efficiency, therefore, the Task Force has tried to build a structure which recognizes that policy makers should not involve too much in delivery of services. It is their endeavour to create a new institutional framework without any disrespect of the past institutions. Task Force members, however, agreed that they will take care of the suggestion of the Hon'ble Education Minister of UP. They also stated that version of the proposed Bill is being frequently modified, incorporating the suggestions as and when they are received. He also clarified that while the Central Government will be obliged to pick up the name for the Vice Chancellor or Heads of Central Educational Institutions from the directory, the same is not compulsory for the States

and only if they wish to do so, they can use it for appointment of the VCs for State Universities. It was also clarified that the Task Force had held regional consultation for UP and MP and a meeting was held in Bhopal which was also attended by some delegates from UP. With regard to setting up of new universities, Task Force member clarified that the Bill has not touched on the legal authority of the State Government to establish universities. In the proposed Bill, the Commission/Council will have to get a report from an accreditation agency so as to ensure that minimum infrastructure for admitting students are available. Task Force member referred to several cases where students have gone to court against institutions lacking in infrastructure facilities. The court has also interpreted that before commencement of academic operation, the educational institutions must get necessary approvals from UGC and other authorities to ensure that the students do not have to run from pillar to post for a the minimum facilities for a good quality education. In this background, Task Force has proposed that within four months of the setting up of university by a State, the NCHER will have to give its decision on commencement of operation. With regard to functioning of Tribunals, it was clarified that it is the university lawyer or somebody representing the university who will be presenting before the Tribunal. Further, Tribunals will be more conducive for adjudicating educational disputes rather than a regular Court. With regard to issue that the Bill will promote centralization of regulation of higher education and research, it was clarified that the General Council will have representation from all the States, as also different sectors of life and it will have the authority in very special cases, even to veto decisions taken by the Higher Education Commission. This suggests that there is no chance for promoting centralized regulation of higher education. While applauding the work done by the UGC since its inception in 1952, the Task Force made it very clear that the proposed Bill will not a regulatory body like UGC. In the proposed draft Bill, the regulatory functions, service functions and monetary functions relating to universities are separated. The service functions will be taken over by finance corporation, the regulatory functions will devolve to universities and the proposed Council will be more of a policy making body. The proposed Bill will take into account the changes that have taken place in the last 20-30 years in the education sector and will try to move forward in higher and research.

Hon'ble HRM also replied to issues raised by Hon'ble Education Minister of UP. HRM made it clear that the Task Force members in their consultative process, had visited 11 places including Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru, etc. and in those States, which the members could not visit they had invited Vice Chancellors, Academics for consultation. With regard to

General Council, HRM clarified that representations will be given to different sectors of education. HRM also clarified that the proposed Commission has also been linked with the other proposed legislation like mandatory accreditation, which will accredit the institution of Central Government as well as State Government for maintaining quality. The Bill on National Accreditation Authority has been introduced in the Parliament and is presently before the Standing Committee. He, therefore, clarified that the proposed legislation is not against any State Government. In fact, this legislation will take away most of the functions of the Central Government which were hitherto being performed by the Central agencies. He also clarified that the UGC functions will not be taken away, however, this will be done by some other authority. Technical matters which were earlier being handled by AICTE will now be handled by an accrediting authority under the National Accreditation Act. The financing work henceforth will be handled by an Higher Education Finance Corporation. With these changes, the Government will be able to go ahead and face the global changes taking place in the education. HRM made it clear that the purpose of setting up of Education Tribunal is to ensure speedy disposal of disputes.

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

Hon'ble Minister of Rajasthan in his speech, congratulated HRM for bringing reforms in Education. He, however, expressed some doubts about forming independence regulatory authority for higher education. He was of the view that the proposed authority should be divided into three parts – higher education, medical education and technical education. He stated that in all universities, attention is being given to higher education. However, university authorities are not aware about the medical education. He suggested that all the Councils i.e. Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Nursing Council and so on, should be clubbed into one body so that they can do justice. He also requested to restructure the proposed Bill so that the medical sector is properly taken care of in the proposed Bill.

Dr. M. K. Bhan, member of Task Force while replying the queries raised by the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Rajasthan, explained that there are only 10 medical schools in India which are actually doing any meaningful medical research and that the influence of the people in private practice of medical education is so profound that any meaningful development of medical education is becoming difficult. He further stated that Medical Education needs to be connected with social science, engineering, etc. to enable it to produce medical

technology. Unfortunately, in our country biological science, physical science and medical science is so distanced from one another, that using science to create solution of public health or personal health care is very difficult. He clarified that the proposed Commission can create the same instrument as Ministry of Health does today. He agreed that the Commission itself should have an eminent person of medical background as a member. He stated that the practice all over the world is that medical school must be part of universities. He vehemently supported the concept that all the disciplines of education should be integrated in one campus. This has been taken care of in the proposed Bill.

HRM also clarified that in our present education system, there is little provision of linking inter-disciplinary education with research and, therefore, stressed that even for the medical sciences, there should be engineering courses that will help integrate the issues relating to bio-engineering or medical science. He strongly supported the inter-disciplinary nature of higher education and said that no purpose will be served or benefit will accrue, without the cross disciplinary approach. This has been taken care of in the proposed Bill.

Shri Pratap Jena, Hon'ble Minister of School & Mass Education, Orissa

The Hon'ble Minister of Orissa, in his speech, fully agreed with Dr. Bhan about the proposed Council of Higher Education. He stated that the State Government has formed a task force which has suggested that under the State Council of Higher Education or National Council of Higher Education, the agricultural education, medical education, engineering all should come together and there should be one regulatory body to oversee their activities. However, he urged the Hon'ble HRM to give more time to firm up the views of State Government.

Hon'ble HRM after taking suggestions from all the members of CABE, agreed for four weeks time to be given to all members to send their suggestions/views on the proposed draft legislation.

Shri D. Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Andhra Pradesh

Hon'ble Minister of Andhra Pradesh congratulated HRM and members of Task Force for bringing a revolutionary Bill, which will definitely give autonomy to universities. He urged the Central Government for providing greater support to the State Governments for

promoting education as State Government have limited finances and they have to prioritise their resources. He urged the HRM to take up the matter with Finance Minister for more funds to meet the State Governments' requirement for education. He further stated that in the proposed Bill, the role of State Council of Higher Education has not been specified, because most of duties relating to policy framework are now being taken over by National Council. He wanted to know about the role of State Council. He also suggested that the proposed Council should be decentralized in terms of functioning, by establishing its branches in each of the States and union territories. He further suggested that the requirements of stakeholders of the society be analysed and put into action. He expressed apprehension about the creation of financial corporation under the statute, which is not required. He was of the view that creation of more bodies could lead to confusion.

Member of Task Force

Members of Task Force clarified that they have proposed that the Chairman of the State Council could be the representative of the State in the General Council and it is visualized that the State Councils will be the grassroots foundation for deliberating on issues which will feed into the Commission. Task Force members are keen that the State Councils also become more vibrant. The members of Task Force also said that they do not want to be overtly prescriptive to the Commission. The Task Force was of the view that after putting the best people there, States and Centre should allow them full autonomy to work. With regard to Education Finance Corporation, the idea they had put forward was that financial aspects would require coordination, with the Science Ministries and other Ministries who have huge resources for research. For example, we have a number of research institutes and because education and research are not connected so the universities are deprived of research money. Fund constraint for research will be addressed in the proposed commission which will be connected not only with universities but also with the States and Central Government. It has already been clarified that they have proposed to separate regulatory authority and the funding authority. This will provide the much needed fund flow to all State Universities.

Prof. Menon, responding on the issues raised by the Hon'ble Minister, clarified that in the proposed legislation, they have ensured that no distinction will be made in the matter of funding between Central and State Universities. There will be one class of higher education institution – universities whether they are in the State domain or Central, private or public

and the norms will be set by the higher education commission through consultation with States in the General Council. Prof. Menon visualized a scenario in which State Universities will be better funded and without any discrimination between Central and State institutions.

HRM in his intervention also mentioned that the higher education Councils of the State will have a representation in the General Council and the proposed Bill envisages setting up of National Science and Research Board at the Centre. The proposed Board would advise the Commission as to how to fund the research projects

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

The Hon'ble Minister of Haryana in her speech congratulated Hon'ble HRM and his team for taking innovative steps in the higher education sector. However, she expressed concern about section 33 of the proposed Bill, which stipulates that the prior approval of the Commission would be required for commencement of academic session by a college or university including colleges/universities funded by the State Government. She further stated that in-depth study is required to understand the proposed Bill as it involves lot of intricacies. She agreed that she would give views of her State Governments within four weeks. She, however, felt that the proposed Bill smacks of centralization and it would lead towards an encroachment on the powers of State Government. She also apprehended that after the approval of the proposed Bill, the State Governments will have to queue up before the Commission for approvals of new Universities and it gives flavour of centralization of power and would result delay in approving of the proposals. She also apprehended chances of malpractices as is the case in some of the regulatory bodies. This will impede growth of higher education institutions. She, therefore, suggested that while the Commission may set the norms, guidelines and standards of academic operation, its compliance should be delegated to the universities in case of colleges. As far as universities are concerned, these tasks may be given to the State Council or any such body that the State Governments deems fit for the job.

HRM replied to some of the points raised by Hon'ble Minister of Haryana and clarified that four weeks time has been proposed for the Commission to accord approval for setting up of universities. HRM also clarified that there is no discrimination to the State Government on this.

Shri Sudarshan Raychoudhury, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, West Bengal

Hon'ble Education Minister of West Bengal invited the attention of members of Task Force that he had raised two issues in the earlier CAGE meeting as to whether the views of the States have been adequately considered, particularly in view of the fact that education falls in the Concurrent List. He also raised the question of autonomy of universities that is being usurped in the proposed Bill. He praised the role of Task Force for eliciting the views of States, and Vice Chancellors in their report. He referred to the statement made by Prof. Menon that the draft Bill has been revised six times and despite that, the Task Force has now given another opportunity to the CAGE members for furnishing their comments/views within a period of four weeks. He stated that 7 members are proposed in the National Commission/Council who would take measures and make all regulations. He raised doubts as to whether the 7-members NCHER should be vested such vast powers. He also desired to know whether the Commission will wait for a period of six months to see the proposals and whether the proposed regulation would be amended by the General Council or not. He referred that section 16 of the proposed Bill relating to powers and functions of the General Council are of advisory in nature. Sub-Section 3 of the proposed Bill only provides veto power to the General Council. He desired to know the functions of the collegiums in this case as collegium is two tier, first scholars, and co-opted scholars. He apprehended that there would be overlapping between the collegiums and the General Council. He, therefore, suggested to integrate the General Council into the Commission itself which would be responsible for taking all policy decisions by 7 members including the Chairman acting as the Executive Body of the enlarged Commission.

He also raised the issue of authority of the Commission for authorizing universities to initiate their academic functions. He referred his views raised in the last meeting of CAGE that NAAC is already in place for accreditation then what is the purpose of creating further accrediting agency. He apprehended that there will be multitude of accrediting agencies and he is not aware as to whether any single regulatory body will be put in place to look into the functions of these accrediting agencies as to whether they are doing things in a right manner. In such cases, university may be assessed from a registered accrediting agency and not from the government agency. The Hon'ble Minister requested the Task Force members to ensure that universities which are set up by State laws or Central laws, undertake their academic programme on the basis of the general guidelines made by the Commission. With regard to Higher Education Finance Service Corporation, he suggested that this corporation would act as per its instructions already given by the Commission under section 45/4. He further

stressed that the Corporation should disburse the fund in accordance with the norms and principles specified by the regulations framed by the Commission under clause I of sub-section 2 of section 28. He also urged the Task Force members to look into the powers and functions of the General Council as the proposed Bill, particularly under Section 28 of the proposed Bill. One of Task Force members, however, clarified that a corrigendum has since been issued to rectify this position. He also referred the discussion held on 18.6.2010 in the Conference of State Education Ministers and said that the objective should be to increase access and have inclusive growth particularly in backward region. He further asked whether it is possible that a corporation and/or a company made under Companies Act will be sufficient to ensure that education is a public good ? He further stated that the concept of company under Companies Act and the concept of inclusive growth need to be harmonised. He also suggested that overlapping of power must be avoided.

Dr. M. K. Bhan, explained that one of the hallmarks of excellence in an organization is the extent of creation of intelligent opposition within the organization. He pointed out that one of the reasons for deterioration of our education system is the absence of any opposition. He clarified that Commission members will be synthesizer of inputs from State Councils, from interactions with the universities, from general council and the collegiums. The General Council is sensitive to relevance and inclusion of equity. He also referred to selection of professors being made in the many big universities in the world, by consulting outsiders about the proposed appointments. Therefore, in the selection of Vice Chancellors, views of the collegium have been proposed. Thus, the views of the 7 members of Commission alone will not determine the functioning of the proposed council. While referring the proposed financial corporation being set up under section 25 of the Companies Act, he clarified that universities are not meant for profit, even in USA, universities are not meant for profit earning. He also clarified that private education does not mean “for profit earning”.

HRM

HRM stated that educational institutions can be set up by a trust, society or a company under section 25 of the Companies Act. Further, in the proposed Bill, Higher Education Financial Services Corporation is being proposed to be set up as an independent body in order to facilitate the norm based funding.

Member of Task Force explained that in the proposed Bill, they have contemplated that minimal regulation will come from the Higher Education Commission and that too in the form of norms and standards or goals being set, rather than as binding regulations. The proposed Commission will enable to improve the higher education with minimal regulation. He also stated that under Section 16(3), regulation proposed by the Commission under Section 24 or Clause (c) and (g) of Section 25 shall be placed before the General Council and General Council may suggest by 2/3rd majority of its members present and voting, amendments to the regulation proposed.

Shri Arvind Limbavali, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Karnataka

The Hon'ble Minister congratulated HRM for bringing reforms in the education sector. The four weeks time given for offering comments appears to be less as it will require indepth discussion in their home state. He had some doubt that the proposed legislation has not been discussed with all the States and their opinion has not been solicited. He was of the view that the disciplines like medical, law, agriculture have not been addressed in the proposed Bill and he expressed that without including them, Higher Education Research Bill will be truncated. Else, the proposed Bill will merely merging UGC and AICTE. He, therefore, urged HRM to discuss this issue with all the States and seek the support from State Governments. He referred to the statement of the HRM that education should be student centric as it has been envisaged in the proposed Bill. He, however, stated that some of the universities have started self financing institutions and self financing courses, where there is no authority to control them. As a result meritorious students from poor families are not getting admission as they can not afford the fee. He, therefore, urged HRM to look into this. He also raised the issue relating to donation and capitation fee being charged in the professional courses. He urged that the proposed Commission should develop norms and approach for financing higher education institutions. He also stated that AICTE and UGC, which have done good work, are being merged in the proposed Bill and therefore the proposed Commission should be set up after indepth consultation and due diligence, otherwise it will not work. He also referred to the proposals relating to setting up of foreign universities in India. He cautioned that adequate regulations should be put in place before allowing these foreign universities in the country otherwise State universities, central universities and deemed universities will be adversely affected. He also referred about the proposed directory of Academicians for

leadership position as referred by the Education Minister of UP and said that this is being followed in their state.

HRM intervened and explained that the provisions incorporated in the proposed Bill regarding appointment of Vice Chancellors of the universities, are not applicable for State Universities. It is upto States to decide as to whether to appoint VC from the Central list or to appoint by themselves. HRM also stressed the need to have coordination and clarity between higher education council at Centre and State. HRM apprised the members of the CAGE that consultation process on this subject had started after the report of the National Knowledge Commission followed by Yash Pal Committee Report and thereafter consultation process has been continued by Task Force. He justified that since exhaustive consultation have already taken place to solicit views of the stakeholders on the proposed Bill, it is reasonable to give four weeks time to finalise the views of the States.

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

Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education stated that the proposed Bill requires in-depth discussion He said that prima-facie the proposed Bill is towards centralization. He also stated that by this Bill, the Central Government will be having an upper hand as far as education is concerned. Further, there is possibility of centralisation of higher education. He also suggested that the proposed collegiums for selection of Vice Chancellors should also include educationists and members from judiciary. He also suggested that the Central Government should bring a legislation to prevent the commercialization of education in the light of the decision of the Supreme Court with regard to Inamdar Case. He apprised that the State of Madhya Pradesh has set up a State Advisory Committee to determine the fee structure in Higher Education in Madhya Pradesh. He urged that other State Government could also follow in this regard.

Dr. Upinderjit Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of School & Higher Education, Punjab

In her speech, the Hon'ble Minister of Punjab extended thanks to HRM for giving four weeks time to give response on the proposed Bill on NCHER. She said that Punjab Government was not consulted by the Task Force about the proposed Bill. She further said that since

agenda for the meeting of CABE was received only 4 days back, they could not study the agenda thoroughly and therefore they would give response within four weeks time. She suggested that it would be better to convene another meeting of State Ministers to discuss the proposed Bill after getting responses from all States so as to evolve a consensus. She invited the attention of HRM about the charging of high fees by the private institutions and universities and urged HRM to take care of this issue.

HRM, however, intervened and said that a separate legislation on Prohibition of Malpractices has been introduced in the Parliament. HRM also clarified that a meeting of Task Force was also held in Chandigarh on 4th March 2010, and Deputy Director of Education of Punjab had attended the said meeting.

HRM also sought views of the CABE members about the structure of the proposed Commission. There was an unanimity among CABE members that other disciplines, including medical education, should also be included in the proposed Council.

Shri Abdul Gani Malik, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Jammu & Kashmir.

The Hon'ble Minister of Jammu & Kashmir emphasized on quality education and expansion of the education. He suggested that the system should be decentralized and Central Government should facilitate State Governments in this issue. He assured that he will give views of State Government on the proposed NCHER Bill within four weeks.

Shri J. J. Irani, CABE Member

Shri J. J. Irani said that the proposed legislation is an excellent move to improve the situation of our country. He said that the way policy planning has been thought for bringing all experts together, is the best course of action. The Task Force will look after all aspects and will give gist of their recommendations to meet the purpose of the proposed legislation. He also suggested that there should be a consensus for the quest for better education so that the country could move forward. He appreciated that the proposed legislation is a well planned one and said that we are trying to put in system which provides resources, building and land for the various institutions to be provided by the Government. He stated that in the present system there is a lack of qualified staff and teachers. He referred the recent initiatives taken by the Government for opening more IITs and IIMs and so on. However, there is lack

facility in these institutions. He said that we have so many universities but we do not have any system to run these institutions satisfactorily. Therefore, a system should be put in place of having people who are well qualified and well equipped to operate these systems. He again appreciated the initiatives taken by the HRM for integrating the whole system to take education in our country forward.

HRM while appreciating the views of Shri Irani, apprised that he had already discussed with State Governments the need for having a cadre of education trainers in every State. Further, the university system should be a resource system of sending Professors to DIETs. He also stated that our IITs and other institutions should assist the local institutions in their vicinity to develop academically.

Ms. Subha Mudgal, CAGE Member

Mrs Subha Mudgal expressed her concerns about arts education. She said that there is great paucity of institutions that concentrate on art education. She stated that almost half decade ago there has been a recommendation that arts education should become a part of mainstream education. However, very little work has happened to implement the said recommendation. She urged HRM to look at the issue of arts education both in school education as well as in realm of higher education because they cannot be separated. She also stated that there are not many special institutions and no work has been done in art education as it is considered more as a leisure hobby. She also suggested that art education needs separate discussion and debate as it has been badly neglected.

Responding to Hon'ble CAGE member, HRM said that unless school education and higher education, are integrated with arts, we are not going to get the culture that we need. This is one reason that the Government has decided to teach economics, and other social sciences in our IITs.

Mrs. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Ms. Shantha Sinha desired to know as to what steps are planned by Government for enabling girls for pursuing higher education after completion of school education. She stated that there must be demand for education, especially for girls aspiring after 10th or 12th class.

However, there is no provision of college and hostels in many districts. She, therefore, urged for placing a system for mapping of population for education in the next 10 years. She also stressed that presently children consider medicine and engineering as an option but we must enlarge the scope of higher education to include other disciplines as well.

Responding the suggestions given by Mrs. Shantha Sinha, HRM apprised CABE member that Government is trying to diversify 10+2 school system to include all the disciplines. HRM also stated that we are trying to make all efforts to integrate all the discipline in higher education so that a child can move from technology to arts and arts to technology.

Ms. Hemavathi, CABE member

Ms. Hemavathi stated that Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education is felt by all, but is yet to become a domestic word in our country. She urged that RTE should be carried forward on a war-footing and it should reach, each and every corner of India. She also emphasized the need for involvement of civic society as also involvement of public private partnership. Referring to Right to Education, the Hon'ble Member of CABE stated that the important point is no retention till class-VIII. She said that it is a welcome idea, but we must also take steps to avert the dilution in teaching and learning process. She urged HRM to draft a plan of action so that at least each and every child attains a minimum level of learning.

Responding to the suggestions of Ms. Hemavathi, HRM stated that we need a clear and complete support of the State Governments to implement the RTE Act and he was hopeful that the State Governments will support the same. With regard to retention of child, HRM clarified that comprehensive evaluation system is in place which will not gauge child by marks but rather on the complete performance of the child throughout the year.

Shri K. K. Aboobacker, CABE member

Shri Aboobacker appreciated the initiatives taken by HRM for revamping higher education and school education in our country. He stated that the National Commission for Higher Education and Research proposed to be formed to coordinate and improve the performance of higher education sector, is a welcome step. He stated that the proposed National Commission includes the Commission itself, the General Council and Collegiums of eminent scholars.

These bodies are expected to have a regulatory role and also be conscience keeper on various development in higher education and research. He urged HRM to include members from minority communities at all levels without sacrificing the merit. He referred that Sachar Committee and Ranganath Mishra Commission have also brought to the limelight the urgent need for taking effective and urgent steps to improve the condition of minorities, especially Muslims, in education sector. He requested HRM to enforce some sort for reservation to minorities in all the professional colleges of the country. He also stated that there is a lot of confusion at the commencement of academic year in self-financing professional colleges as they follow different procedures for admission and have different fee structures. He urged HRM to take necessary action in this regard. While referring to Article 30 of the Constitution which guarantees minorities to establish institution of their choice, he mentioned that in Kerala, more than 300 such private schools have not been given affiliation by CBSE because of non issuance of NOC by the State Government.

Prof. Abhai Maurya, CABE member

Prof. Maurya appreciated the initiatives taken for the proposed NCHER as a very good step. He also appreciated the observation made by the HRM about liberal arts and humanities being taught along with technology and engineering in the absence of which, technology and engineering streams have a limited vision. He also stated that success of the proposed Bill lie at the doorsteps of the universities because universities are being empowered in the real sense of the word. He also stated that there are huge problems of higher education at the ground levels and those problems should also be addressed. He suggested that the medical education, agriculture education and law education should also be made part of the proposed NCHER.

Dr. C. Subramaniam, CABE member

Hon'ble CABE Member extended his thanks to HRM for implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, 2009. He also appreciated HRM for taking bold steps to revamp the higher education system. He referred to his remarks at the last CABE meeting, that the reports of NKC and Prof. Yash Pal Committee cannot be implemented simultaneously since they have inherent contradictions. He extended thanks to HRM for honouring his commitment for taking the suggestion given by him that there must be

representation from State Government in the proposed NCHER, a policy making body. He also extended thanks to HRM for including the suggestion of CAGE members for common curriculum of science and mathematics. He also welcomed the provision of setting up a collegium directly from academic leadership position. With regard to accreditation, he urged HRM to reconsider the reliability of private accrediting agencies for assigning the job. There may be check and balances before accrediting the universities and a transparent reliable agency must be in place of accreditation. With regard to Higher Education Financial Service Corporation, he suggested that auditors who are dealing with finance should not be associated with this. Academician with sound financial knowledge should be on its board, because academicians only can understand the difficulties of the individual. He requested HRM to evolve a mechanism so that the students can get loans from Higher Education Financial Service Corporation instead of loans through banks. He was of the view that while there should be no intervention of Central Government in the functioning of State Government, but at the same time appointment of Vice Chancellors of State Universities, must also have some desired regulation.

Agenda Item No.II: National Academic Depository Authority Bill, 2010

HRM also sought the views of CAGE members about setting up of a National Academic Depository Authority under National Academic Depository Bill, 2010. HRM gave brief introduction about the Bill stating that at present every degree certificate is in paper form and sometime these get lost. Also sometimes they are forged documents because there is no connectivity between the institutions and individuals who is receiving the documents. In order to deal with these problems, we have proposed to set up a National Depository Authority. The Depository would enter into an agreement with all the institutions Central/State universities so that all the results in demat forms will be given to the Depository who will keep a record of all awards so that in the event somebody needs to verify it for any purpose say for employment, the same can be checked. He also added that confidentiality will be maintained and this will not be accessible to any or everybody, because each person will be given particular number. In case of need, the required document will be given within 3 days. There was a general agreement on this issue and it was emphasized that this be carried out in a full proof manner.

Agenda Item No.III: Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education

A presentation was made by Ms. Anita Kaul, AS(SE) on integration of SSA with RTE, highlighting the salient feature of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, expenditure State-wise and RTE Act, 2009. In her presentation, she also referred the outcome of the discussion held with State Secretaries and State Project Directors implementing the SSA. It was apprised that there has been an overwhelming demand that SSA should continue as it will benefit implementation of RTE. Therefore, there is a need to align SSA norms with the process of RTE Act. A copy of the presentation is enclosed at **Annexure-III**.

Shri Partha De Hon'ble Minister of School Education, West Bengal

Shri Partha De appreciated the initiatives taken by the Ministry of HRD for making Education as a Fundamental Right. He stated that all the State Governments, according their needs and their understanding, are trying to implement the RTE. He stated that as per the RTE Act, funds will have to be guaranteed by the States. He was of the view that the implementation of this Act is not going to work if the responsibility of its implementation falls only on the State Government or the local authorities. He referred that a lot of good legislation has been made in this country, but their implementation has always been a problem. It is, therefore, a common partnership between the Union and the States which is required to implement this Act. He referred the financial position of West Bengal Government and said that it is beyond the capacity of West Bengal Government to implement the RTE. He referred that the State Government will have to face many issues with regard to the implementation of RTE Act with reference to age, case of dropout, late joining by the students, etc. He urged HRM to identify some agencies which are well conversant with the subject. He apprehended that the responsibility of the State Government would increase many fold. He alleged that the entire authority is being captured by the Centre right from the primary education to higher education. He stated that State Governments have their own priorities. He said that he has no objection for setting up the National Academic Depository Authority at the Centre. However, he has some reservation about the existence of two authorities viz. NCERT and NCTE. He stated that there are different stages of development, different stages of commitment in respect of States. Therefore, those commitments are to be addressed for smooth sailing of the RTE Act. He referred the minimum qualification prescribed for the teachers and said that imposing the said qualification immediately on the

States will put them in embarrassing position. He also had reservation about the provisions relating to minimum qualification norms and training norms for teachers. With regard to implementing SSA and RMSA, he suggested that whatever has been done so far in the field of primary education needs to be updated according to the expectations of the nation. He suggested HRM to amend the RTE Act to include pre-primary education upto five years age in the RTE Act, else it will be difficult to achieve the intended benefits of the RTE Act.

Ms. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Ms Shantha Sinha said that age appropriate class has been incorporated in the RTE based on experience of several programmes by the SSA as well as by NGOs where it was found that through accelerated learning and through bridge course programmes, older children can be prepared for a class appropriate to their age and they are able to catch up with their peers. She also shared the information with the CABE members that hundreds and thousands of students in the country have been able to come to mainstream education through the bridge courses and accelerated learning as this has happened in Andhra Pradesh. She also stated that many States like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka, have all been running bridge courses which are highly interactive.

HRM replied that extension of RTE Act to children upto 6 years age would involve additional funds which are not available. HRM, however, expressed hope that if the economy grows at 9 per cent then this can be taken care of later. HRM also stated that many States are asking 90% of the fund for RTE but where will the funds come from? If the State Government have the will and the finances, they may include pre-primary education in their agenda and nobody will prevent them. On the NCTE, HRM stated that in order to maintain quality education, we need to meet standards of teachers and these standards are prescribed in the RTE. On the issues of finances, HRM stated that State Governments and Centre are in partnership in development of education sector. Education is not about Central Government or State Governments, it is for child and we are partners in that.

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

Dr. Rakesh Dhar Tripathi stated that the Government of Uttar Pradesh is spending around Rs.14,000 crore annually on elementary education. He also informed that UP Government

requires 4.5 lakh teachers and they have already recruited 1 to 1.25 lakh teachers. On the issue of teacher qualifications, he suggested that the Central Government should expedite the process of laying down the minimum qualifications, and that NCTE should allow the Government of Uttar Pradesh to recruit persons with B. Ed. Qualifications and who have undergone the Special BTC course, as primary school teachers. He expressed concern over the fact that enrolment in Government schools was going down vis-à-vis private schools and stated that this matter requires deep introspection and examination. He stated that successful implementation of the RTE would definitely require deployment of adequate funds.

Shri Ishwar Das Dhiman, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Himachal Pradesh

Hon'ble Education Minister of Himachal Pradesh apprised the CAFE members about the action taken by the Himachal Government for implementation of RTE Act. He stated that they have already arranged trained teachers for implementation of RTE and have also constituted School Management Committee to monitor the scheme. He also apprised that in tribal areas, the State Government has already opened one primary school in the radius of 1½ km. and middle school in the radius of 3 kms. He apprehended that if the State Government has to pay 25% expenses to private schools for providing education to poor students under RTE Act, it would not be conducive in the tribal areas where government schools already have less students. He was of the view that providing such incentives would further reduce the number of students in the Government schools. He further said that if the private schools are opened in those areas where the number of students are already less, then the expenditure of the Government would be double as it would have to spend on its own schools as also pay for the 25% seats in the private schools. He urged HRM to care of this point.

Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (SEL) while responding to Hon'ble Minister of Himachal Pradesh, stated that Himachal Pradesh has done best job in the school education. As far as opening of schools, she explained that education has become a Fundamental Right and it is not necessary to define neighbourhood school in an uniform way and its meaning will differ from locality based on its necessity.

Ms. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (SE&L) further clarified that it is for the State Government to define the areas or limits of neighbourhood under section 6 of the RTE Act and the State can always specify different norms for hilly/tribal areas.

Shri Hasmukh Adhia, Principal Secretary (Education), Govt. of Gujarat

He stated that the Government of Gujarat was taking steps to move to the 8-year elementary cycle, by shifting class-VIII to elementary schools. He also stated that the State was taking steps for appointment of subject teachers at the upper primary level in accordance with Schedule in the RTE Act. With regard to the definition of neighbourhood schools, he reiterated the view expressed by the Hon'ble Education Minister, Himachal Pradesh, that in such areas where the number of students in government schools is small, paying for 25% seats in private schools will lead to unnecessary burden on the state exchequer which will have to pay for its own schools as also pay fees for 25% seats in private schools.

HRM decided that a Committee would be constituted to examine the implementation of the provisions of section 12 (1) (c) relating to admission of children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections in unaided schools.

Dr. Upinderjeet Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of School & Higher Education, Punjab

Dr. Upinderjeet Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of School & Higher Education, Punjab congratulated the Central Government for the RTE Act, which, she said, would provide universal access, equity and quality in elementary education. She stated that deployment of teachers for election duties, census and natural calamities would lead to difficulties in classroom transaction. She expressed concern over the shortage of funds as a result of which it has not been possible to spend resources for sports and cultural activities in schools. She suggested that uniforms should also be provided to the children and funds should be provided for furniture in primary schools. Further, Mid-day Meal should be extended to private schools and the cost of kitchen shed be increased from Rs.60,000 to Rs.1 lakh. She also suggested pre-school education should be funded by the Government of India.

Secretary (SE&L) clarified that election and decennial census are mammoth exercise and these can be accomplished only with help of teachers, who constitute a large cadre in the States. She stated that it would not be possible to extend MDM to private schools. With regard to cost of kitchen sheds, she mentioned that the MDM norms have been revised and the financial allocations for construction of kitchen sheds are being made on the basis of the State Schedule of Rates (SOR).

Shri Sudhir Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development stated that at present 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned, of which 11.62 lakh centres are operational and pre-school education is provided. He also informed members that the ICDS scheme has been universalized and a large number of Anganwadi Centres are also being established in the campuses of primary schools. He suggested that the vacant post of teachers in the Anganwadi Centres should be filled up from amongst women. With regard to constitution of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), he stated that only 8 states have constituted SCPCR and requested that more States should constitute SCPCR, especially in light of the mandate given to them under the RTE Act.

Shri M. A. Baby, Hon'ble Education Minister, Kerala

Shri M. A. Baby, Hon'ble Education Minister said that in Kerala there is excess of qualified teachers and they are called protected teachers. He said that with the effective implementation of family planning scheme and empowerment of women, Kerala has nuclear families. Therefore, many schools are facing shortage of students. He stated that NOC is not being given these days for CBSE schools as this will open floodgate for more students to join CBSE schools thereby shrinking the strength of government schools. He, therefore, urged for special treatment for Kerala. He also suggested that a Committee be constituted for introduction of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) at the elementary stage.

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

Ms. Archana Chitnis stated that since SSA will be the main vehicle to implement the RTE Act, it needs to be strengthened. She also suggested that SSA should not remain a stand-alone programme, but should gradually be integrated with the State Education Department. She also suggested all State Governments should review SSA scheme and to analyse the achievements that have been made under SSA during last 10 years. With regard to in-service training programmes, she requested that while Central Government may determine the standards of training, the States should be provided flexibility in duration and other aspects relating to conduct of the training programmes. She suggested the teachers working in remote areas be provided with residential accommodation. She pleaded for strong community involvement in achieving the objective of RTE. She also suggested whenever teacher goes on leave, leave reserve may be made available. She requested that qualification

of part time instructors need be laid down by the Central Government. She also urged for recruiting of quality teacher and we should not compromise the quality.

Secretary (SE&L) stated that some of the SSA norms have already been changed with the approval of Executive Committee of the SSA. More changes have been proposed which would be finalized after the approval of the competent authority. She stated that while the Committee which examined the issue of harmonization of SSA norms with the RTE provisions had carried out extensive consultations with the State Governments, the Central Government would always welcome any further suggestions for changes in the SSA norms. While agreeing that the SSA and the State Education Department structures are dual in nature, she stated that over time, these structures would require to be merged. With regard to norms for training, she clarified that while the SSA norms lay down certain broad parameters, States have the desired flexibility in implementation of the programmes. On the issue of residential facilities for teachers in rural areas, Secretary, SE&L stated that the financial implications of such a proposal would be quite substantial. On the issue of policy on leave reserve teachers, she clarified that these were within the domain of State Government.

Shri Gautam Bora, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Assam

Shri Gautam Bora, Hon'ble Education Minister gave an overview of steps taken by the State Government towards implementation of RTE Act. He informed that the State Government has initiated the process of school mapping using GIS and GPS technique. He requested for financial support of the Central Government for augmenting capacity of the States for pre-service and in-service teacher training programmes. He stated that community involvement has always been strong in Assam for establishment of schools particularly at the primary level. In this way, majority of their teachers have not been recruited directly and their academic or professional qualification has not been taken into account. He stated that the State Government is in the process of amending the teacher Recruitment Rules. He requested that grants being given @ Rs.3,000 and Rs.10,000 for primary and upper primary schools for purchase of library books be increased to Rs.10,000 and Rs.15,000 respectively. In this regard, Secretary (SE&L) clarified that the norms for library grants have been enhanced very recently and it may not be feasible to review the matter at this stage.

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

Ms. Geeta Bhukkal, Hon'ble Education Minister informed the members regarding the various steps taken by the Government of Haryana for improving elementary education. She stated that (a) Panchayats are being given awards for reducing drop outs; (b) the State has a transparent system of teacher recruitment & transfers and all teachers are trained; (c) all children are provided free textbooks and uniforms; (d) facilities for regular health check-up and follow up treatment is provided to all children upto the age of 18 years; and (e) private schools are already under an obligation to admit 25% children from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections. She also stated that they have set up a separate cadre to look into the education in backward areas. She requested that the funding pattern of 75:25 be adopted for implementation of RTE.

Ms. Hemavathi, CABE Member

Ms. Hemavathi stressed the need for quality education and welcomed the provisions of the RTE Act relating to CCE at elementary level and no examination till class VIII.

Shri Pratap Jena, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Orissa

While welcoming the proposed amendments to the RTE Act relating to inclusion of children with disabilities, Shri Jena, Hon'ble Minister of Education, sought clarification whether special schools for disabled children would continue in light of the RTE Act. He also informed that Orissa is in a very good position with child tracking system for which he sought the support of the Centre. He raised the issue of multi-lingual education for the tribal areas and the need for additional financial support for establishment of more teacher education institutions in Orissa.

Shri Brij Mohan Agrawal, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Chhattisgarh

Shri Brij Mohan Agrawal, Hon'ble Education Minister requested that additional funds may be provided so as to enable the State Government to extend the present scheme of providing cycles to girls at upper primary level to the primary level.

Prof. Abhai Maurya, CABE Member

Prof. Maurya suggested that the education cess be increased from the present 2 per cent for providing additional funds for implementation of the RTE Act. He expressed concern over the poor quality of English textbooks in schools and suggested that the University of English and Foreign Languages could provide technical support in improving their quality.

Agenda Item No.IV: National Vocational Qualification Frameworks

HRM also sought the views of CABE members on the proposed agenda on National Vocational Qualification Framework. He sought the approval of CABE so that action could be initiated in this regard. HRM explained that the Ministry intends to set up an Inter Ministerial Group because of need to expand the vocational education sector to meet the skill requirements of the country as also the need to empower our youth. He apprised that an Inter-Ministerial group with representation of State Governments will be set up to get the issue on board and then it will be examined by the expert body which will decide the framework. This was endorsed by the CABE Members.

Agenda Item No.V: Core Curriculum on Science and Mathematics

HRM also sought the approval of CABE with regard to agenda item Core Curriculum on Science and Mathematics in Higher Secondary Stage. He stated that this issue was considered by COBSE where 20 of the 29 Boards were present and unanimously passed the resolution that this is a good idea. He apprised that Core Curriculum will be benchmark for preparing the syllabus at the State level by the State Boards so that there is level playing field across the country.

Shri M. A. Baby, Hon'ble Education Minister of Kerala in response to above item stated that Prof. Yash Pal Committee had taken the initiative for evolving National Curriculum Framework, 2005. He referred to NCF 2005 suggesting that States also evolve their own curriculum framework and said that Kerala has undertaken that project.

Before concluding, HRM invited Chairman of UGC and acting Chairman, AICTE to give their views about the proposed Bill on Higher Education & Research. Prof. Thorat,

Chairman, UGC explained the background of UGC initiatives taken by UGC for improvement of the function of UGC and also constraints being faced in the smooth functioning. He welcomed the proposed legislation which will overcome the bottlenecks being presently faced by him. Prof. Mantha, Acting Chairman, AICTE also apprised the CABE members about the functions and role of AICTE with its achievement and constraints being faced by him in the existing framework. He also opined that the proposed legislation would be very much in the interest of higher education and supported the proposed move.

At the end, Hon'ble HRM thanked the Hon'ble Members and read out Summary Record of Discussion of the Meeting, a copy of which is at **Annexure-IV**.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

CABE MEETING FOR 19TH JUNE 2010

S. No.	Name Participant (Ministers of States)	State
1.	Shri V. Vaithiligam, Chief Minister	Puducherry
2.	Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhury Minister (Higher Education)	West Bengal
3.	Shri Partha De Minister (School Education)	Meghalaya
4.	Dr Sridhar Babu Minister (Higher Education)	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Smt. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Minister of Education,	Meghalaya
6.	Shri Anil Sarkar, Minister of Higher Education	Meghalaya
7.	Jenab Abdul Gani Malik, Minister of Higher Education	J&K
8.	Er. R. S. Chib, VSM, Minister of Medical Education, Technical Education	J&K
9.	Peerzada Mohammad Sayed, Minister of School Education	J&K
10.	Shri Kageri Vishweshwara Hedge Minister of Primary & Secondary Education	Karnataka
11.	Shri Balasaheb Thorat, Minister of School Education	Maharashtra

12.	Smt Geeta Bhukkal, Minister of Education,	Haryana
13.	Shri Gautam Bora, Minister of Education	Assam
14.	Shri Bosiram Siram, Minister of Education	Arunachal Pradesh
15.	Shri Pratap Jena Minister of School and Mass Education	Orissa
16.	Shri Brijmohan Agrawal Minister of Higher Education	Chhatisgarh
17.	Smt Archana Chitnis, Minister of Education	Madhya Pradesh
18.	Shri Lakshmi Kant Sharma, Minister of Higher & Technical Education	Madhya Pradesh
19.	Shri Jayanta Kumar Singh, Minister of Education	Manipur
20.	Shri N. K. Pradhan, Minister of HRD	Sikkim
21.	Shri N. Konyak, Minister of School Education	Nagaland
22.	Shri A Monserratte Minister of Education	Goa
23.	Shri Govind Singh Bisht, Minister of Education	Uttarakhand
24.	Shri Arvinder Singh Lovely Minister of Education	Delhi
25.	Dr. Upinderjit Kaur, Minister of Education	Punjab
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