

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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**DR. D. PURANDESWARI TO HEAD STANDING COMMITTEE TO MONITOR  
IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES AIMED AT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF  
SCS/STS & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR  
EDUCATION OF SCs, STs AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES HELD UNDER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI KAPIL SIBAL**

**New Delhi: June 27, 2012**

First meeting of the National Monitoring Committee for Education of SCs, STs and Persons with Disabilities was held on 27.6.2012 at Vigyan Bhavan under the Chairmanship Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development. The National Monitoring Committee has been constituted for the first time by the Ministry of HRD to advise the Government on all matters pertaining to education and its pursuit for SCs, STs and PwDs. In addition, the National Monitoring Committee will review the functioning of various schemes launched by the Ministry for the purpose of promoting SCs, STs and PwDs in education.

MOS Shri E. Ahamed, and Dr. D. Purandeswari, Education Ministers of select State Governments, Hon'ble MPs, Secretary (SE&L) Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (Higher Education), Shri Ashok Thakur, Members of the National Monitoring Committee, distinguished academics, representatives of civil society organisations and senior officers of the Central and State Governments were present on this occasion.

In his opening remarks, , the Minister said that we all recognize the centrality of education in individual growth as also social and economic development and their contributory role to nation building. He emphasized that a well educated population, adequately equipped with knowledge and skill is not only essential to support economic growth, but is also a precondition for growth to be inclusive since it is the educated and skilled person who can stand to benefit most from the employment opportunities which growth will provide. Equitable access to education is an essential pre-requisite for ensuring equality of opportunity and this calls for addressing the issues for enhancing the participation of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and Persons with Disabilities in education so as to make inclusive development a reality.

Various members of the National Monitoring Committee congratulated the Minister for his initiative to constitute the National Monitoring Committee for the first time and said that this would go a long way in focusing attention towards educational development of children belonging to SC, ST and PwD categories.

After deliberations, it was resolved to have a Standing Committee under MOS Dr. D. Purandeswari to monitor implementation of Schemes aimed at educational opportunities of SCs/STs & PwDs and to suggest measures for enhancing their access to quality inclusive education. It was also resolved to constitute Task Forces for SCs, STs & PwDs. Each of the Task Forces will specially focus on :

- (i) Review of the implementation of schemes of MHRD aimed at education of children belonging to SC/ST and PwD categories.
- (ii) Identify factors for 'drop-out' of the children belonging to these Categories at different levels e.g. primary, secondary and higher education level.
- (iii) Suggest monitoring mechanism for physical and financial progress of schemes of HRD focused at SC/ST and PwD Categories.
- (iv) Suggest modalities for implementation of SCSP/TSP with respect to MHRD.
- (v) Suggest ways/strategies to enhance the educational attainment of the children of these categories including modification of existing schemes and proposals for new schemes.
- (vi) Empowerment of girl child at all levels.
- (vii) Convergence of schemes of MHRD with those of other Ministries so that there is synergy in schemes targeted for educational development of SC/St and PwDs.
- (viii) Any other issue(s) which the Task Force may consider relevant.

Each Task Force will have members of the National Monitoring Committee and will also co-opt experts belonging to the respective field.

The Task Forces would also interact with the other concerned Ministries of the Government of India as also with the State Governments to ensure convergence of schemes, particularly in respect of grant of scholarships and provision of hostel facilities.

Besides these Task Forces it was also resolved to constitute Task Force on the following specific issues:

- Provision of vocational education & skill development amongst persons with disabilities.
- Measures to promote & develop quality faculty from SCs/STs & PwDs.
- Measures to promote educational opportunities and welfare of students from North East belonging to these categories

The Task Forces would submit their reports to the Standing Committee within a period six months. The Standing Committee will guide & advise the Task Forces from to time.

It was also resolved that the National Monitoring Committee for Education of SC, ST and PwDs will be a permanent body.

MV/GK