

Status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Empowered Committee for Basic Scientific Research in India Universities.

The M/HRD had set up a Task Force for rejuvenation of Basic Scientific Research in Indian universities under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma, former Director, UICT, Mumbai. An Empowered Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma, Former Director, UICT, Mumbai for implementation of recommendations of the Task Force. The Empowered Committee is meeting almost every month for taking action on the recommendations of the Task Force. Till date following is the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Empowered Committee:

1. 1800 JRFs have been given granted to each Science Departments DRS/CAS/DSA/University/Centres for Potential with Excellence.
2. Rs.Twenty lakhs each have been sanctioned to about 306 DRS/DSA/CAS Departments in Sciences, Bio-Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Sciences for strengthening of infrastructure in terms power supply, water supply, safety equipment, laboratories working tables and Infrastructure required for including the component of research at P.G. level. Programme.
3. All State Education Secretaries have been requested to adopt uniform retirement age for the teachers
4. A Six-member Committee has been constituted with Chairman, UGC and Director-General, CSIR as Co-Chairperson to work out the modalities for crating formal linkages between Universities and CSIR I abs, under the collaborative programme. The meeting of the committee would be convened as soon as the new DG, CSIR takes over.
5. Operation Faculty Research is being launched, under which 1000 faculty positions are being created and to be filled at national level through global advertisement.
6. An amount of Rs.205 crores has been allocated for implementation of recommendations of M.M. Sharma Committee for 2007-08.
7. On the recommendations of the Empowered Committee, proposals have been invited for the UGC Networking/Summer-Winter School centres from CAS and DSA departments under the UGC SAP scheme. The departments have been informed that the UGC plans to establish 10 centres and with a liberal financial support of upto 5 crores per annum to selected departments for establishment of UGC Networking/Summer Winter School Centres. About 81 departments have sent their proposals.
8. The Committee was of the view that the support may also be extended to departments other than the SAP departments under various rogrammes initiated by the Empowered Committee. Accordingly, letters have been sent to the State, Central and Deemed to be Universities inviting proposals from them. Accordingly, letters have been sent to all the non-

SAP departments of 167 universities and in response to the letters proposals have been received. The information received would be put up before the Empowered Committee in its meeting to be held on November, 20, 2007.

9. The Committee recommended that a mechanism may be worked out to ensure that all M.Sc. programmes are structured in a manner so as to include the component of research.
10. The Committee was of the view that regional workshops may be held between CAS departments and the Committee members to apprise these departments of the thinking and expectations of the Empowered Committee from the departments.
11. The Guidelines for "D.S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowship" has been approved. An MoU has been signed between UGC and Pune University to operationalize the scheme. 500 pd fellowships are to be launched under this scheme annually.
12. An infrastructure strengthening grant of Rs.5 lakhs to each of the 700 science departments of 97 colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE) is being released.