

**Minutes of the meeting through Video Conference held on 25th June 2019 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (HE)**

A meeting through Video Conferencing was held on 25th June, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (HE). The issues of Faculty Recruitment, Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP), Review of the performance of the States/UTs under RUSA, 7<sup>th</sup> CPC Reimbursement and Database of class 12<sup>th</sup> students were discussed.

2. At the outset, Secretary (HE) welcomed all the participants to the meeting. In his opening remarks, the following issues were highlighted:

i) Draft National Education Policy (NEP) formulated by experts has been placed in the public domain. State Governments are requested to send in their comments or suggestions for modifications by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Human Resource Minister is likely to hold a meeting with the State Education Ministers in the month of August for formal deliberations on the NEP.

ii) A Higher Education Programme with 5 year implementation plan (EQUIP), is being formulated by the Government of India. In EQUIP, States will be the major participants as well as its beneficiaries.

iii) Filling up of faculty vacancy positions needs to be taken on priority. UGC has come out with Guidelines for filling up of vacant faculty positions. States are requested take all necessary steps immediately to put the process of filling up vacancies in motion like Central Higher Educational Institutions and fill up the vacant faculty posts as per the UGC Guidelines.

3. Joint Secretary (HE) made a presentation on the present status of progress of RUSA. The following issues regarding implementation of the scheme in the States were discussed/decided:

i) It was noted with concern that there was considerable delay, in transfer of funds from the States to the beneficiary institutions. Secretary (HE) directed the States/UTs to release the funds to beneficiary institutions without any further delay and to submit an action plan for timely utilization of resources in this regard. All States/UTs were requested to discuss the issue with their Finance department for timely release of funds.

ii) The States' performance was reviewed in detail

iii) The State of Assam was directed to submit an action plan for opening temporary campuses for the New Professional Colleges and Model Degree Colleges approved under RUSA under a Mentor institution on the pattern of IITs and Centrally Funded Institutions.

iv) It was noted with concern that many States have not put in place Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for Universities approved under Component 4 of RUSA 2.0. The States were requested to operationalise the SPVs at the earliest and also release the grants urgently to the Universities. The States were informed that the SPVs should be comprised primarily of academicians.

v) It was also noted that many States lagged behind in the utilization of Preparatory Grants and several States did not have a robust Technical Support Group (TSG) for RUSA with professionals hired for this specialized work. The States were required to place the

advertisements in this regard by 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 failing which recruitment to these posts will be done through a centralised process

4. The action plans submitted by the States for faculty recruitment was also discussed. It was noted that many Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) including Universities, colleges, private aided colleges, private unaided colleges have not filled up the requisite data in the NHERC portal. The States were informed that filling up of vacant faculty posts is one of the priority items of the Government of India. The States were requested to ensure that all the faculty positions are in place as per UGC Guidelines and to initiate the process of recruitment forthwith. States were also directed to monitor the filling up the vacancies as per the time frame stipulated by the UGC in this regard. Failure to fill up the vacancies in a time bound manner may result in withdrawal of 12B status of the HEIs by the UGC.

5. As regards 7<sup>th</sup> CPC reimbursements, the States were informed that save for Mizoram, all other States had either submitted incomplete proposals or not submitted any proposal at all. The States were directed to adhere to communications of Government of India in this regard and were reminded to send their complete proposals by 30.06.2019

6. Secretary (HE) explained the concept of EQUIP to the States in detail. EQUIP would focus on 10 main themes viz., Access; Quality; Promoting Excellence; Governance reforms; Assessment, Accreditation and Ranking; Promoting research and innovation; Employment and Entrepreneurship; Using Technology; Internationalisation; and Higher Education Financing. It was informed that the current presentation

regarding EQUIP would be circulated to all the State Governments for their comments/suggestions.

7. Joint Secretary (Admin) requested all the States to fill up the data regarding 12<sup>th</sup> class passed out students in the pan-India portal as per the communication sent by him to all Principal Secretaries vide his D.O. dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

8. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the participants.