Education budget rises by 18%

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NEW DELHI: Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee has allocated ₹61,427 crore for education in his budget — 18% more than last year’s ₹52,057 crore.

Of this, ₹45,969 crore has been earmarked for school education and literacy while ₹15,458 crore has been allocated for higher education.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal told HT: “It is commendable that the finance minister has continued to invest in education in a difficult year like this. This is the surest road to empowerment.”

The allocation to implement the Right To Education (RTE) Act for children between 6 and 14 years was hiked by 21.7%.

“The RTE Act is being implemented with effect from April 1, 2010 through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and we propose to increase the allocation to ₹25,555 crore,” Mukherjee told Lok Sabha.

Lauding the role of mid-day meals in enhancing enrolment, retention, attendance and improving the nutrition levels among children, the minister said the budget for the scheme was being hiked from ₹10,380 crore to ₹11,937 crore — an increase of 15%.

Underlining the pivotal role played by the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan in improving secondary education, Mukherjee said ₹3,124 crore had been allocated for it — nearly 29% higher than last year.

Stressing on the need to set up model schools at block levels, he said in the 12th Plan, there was a proposal to build 6,000 such schools. “Of these, 2,500 will be set up under Public Private Partnership,” he said.

To improve the flow of credit to deserving students, a credit guarantee fund would also be set up, he added.
PSUs dump IIT for Anna varsity graduates

Public sector giants find students in other government engineering colleges more loyal as employees

Vasudha Venugopal

CHENNAI: Public Sector Undertakings, which are considering GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) for recruiting fresh engineering graduates this year, have chosen to visit colleges of government colleges rather than the elite IITs to hunt for talent.

Anna University, in a number of PSUs including NTPC, Indian Oil Corporation, BHEL, and Neyveli Lignite Corporation, recruiting nearly 70 students, is one of three of its reputed colleges. Traditionally, the low paying PSUs have not been considered a lucrative career option by IIT graduates, who tend to move on for greener pastures even if they happen to take up jobs in the public sector. But post-recession, when job security became more important than the pay package, PSUs are back in demand, especially with the implementation of the sixth Pay Commission recommendations. But these giants are now playing it safe by recruiting only those students who would want a long-term career with them.

"PSUs are no longer the typical government offices they used to be. Promotions are faster and hikes are bigger, and they also let you work on domains you are interested in, which very few private companies do," said an sho official of the Centre for Government Engineering, Guindy, who was hired last year by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

Another reason for the trend is government colleges, says D. Paturthum, an alumni of the Centre for Government Engineering, who was recruited by the Indian Oil Corporation, Guindy, which he was hired last year by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

"The difference in the number of jobs offered by top notch PSUs including Indian Oil Corporation, BHEL, NTPC, and Power Grid has been a major factor in the increased interest in these institutions," he said.

More than 1,500 students from top-notch PSUs including Indian Oil Corporation, BHEL, NTPC, and Power Grid have attended last year’s GATE tests. "I was surprised by the number of students who asked me if I was considering taking the GATE test," said S. Venugopal, a spokesperson for BHEL.

"We are happy to see that the GATE scores are improving each year, with the number of students taking the test nearly doubling," he said.

But while the interest in government colleges is growing, the number of students taking the GATE test is still small, with only 100 students opting for the test so far this year.

"The government has been encouraging students to take the GATE test, but the numbers are still not high enough," said D. Paturthum.

"We hope that the numbers will increase in the coming years, as more students realize the benefits of taking the GATE test," he said.
Indian-Americans in full strength at White House

Narayan Lakshman

WASHINGTON: While it was unsurprising that Indian-Americans turned out in full strength for the White House’s first state dinner in November 2009, for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, their presence at President Barack Obama’s dinner for British Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday seemed to underscore the continuing importance of this administration’s links with the community.

Leading the list was Raj Shah, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. At 39, Dr. Shah is considered one of the youngest Indian-Americans in recent history to be appointed to such a senior position. His wife, Shivam Mallick Shah, who works at the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation, also attended.

A second senior administration official was Arun Majumdar, Director at the Advanced Research Projects Agency — Energy, in the U.S. Department of Energy. Professor Majumdar, who received a B. Tech in Mechanical Engineering from the IIT, Bombay and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, was named as Mr. Obama’s nominee for the post of Under Secretary of Energy last November.

Another prominent attendee with roots in California was Attorney-General Kamala Harris, accompanied by her sister Maya Harris.

Ms. Harris made history in the mid-term elections held in November 2010 when she became the first woman to occupy the top legal position in the state. She traces her maternal antecedents to Chennai.

Amit Pandya of the Open Society Institute was another. Mr. Pandya served, according to sources on the Policy Planning Staff of the U.S. Department of State and was Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East at the U.S. Agency for International Development. He accompanied Cecilia Munoz, Assistant to the President and Director, Domestic Policy Council.
चुनौतियों पर भारी पड़ेगी धन की कमी

कन्हेश्वर सिंह, नई दिल्ली

सरकार भी इस सच्चाई से अवज्ञा नहीं कि पंजीयन काफी के कुछ बनने दूसरी काफी की भी पहाड़ी नहीं कर पाए। सूचना ने उनकी हत्या में भी बिगाड़ आया है। इस हज़ार मौंडल स्कूलों में से चार साल में महज़ 438 हो चुके हो सकते हैं। वही जगत आईएस, आईआईएम और एनआईटी जैसे शहरों निर्माण के संबंध में जमीं वित्त रही है। इन सबके बीच और घटते पढ़ने वाले छात्रों की मदद करने, और गृहविभाग की टिकी अधिकार विभाग के बजट में 40 प्रतिशत का इंकार हुआ है, जो इस बजट का बजट 21.7 प्रतिशत का बजट पर लिखा गया।

जबकि, पूरी हर काम में व्यवस्था और अनिवार्य शिक्षा का सपा होना चाहिए है।

सरकार ने पिछले बजट में 6 हजार मौंडल स्कूलों के लिए 1,200 करोड़ का प्राप्तिविधि किया। 2006 में भूल हेतु जाता विभाग में अब तक 438 स्कूल ही गुलाम हो गए है। जबकि पूरी हर काम में उन्हें लेकर 2,500 हजार के साथ ही अब तक नहीं बना है।

लिखा जाता है कि जोग (कमलेश्वर) शिक्षाधीनों के न होने के चलते गृहविभाग की शिक्षा (स्कूली से उच्च तक) नहीं है। जबकि पूरी हर काम में अब तक नहीं है।

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