

Struggle

Unity

Progress

# All India Democratic Students' Organisation

## All India Committee

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### Press Release

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009 The final Report of the Yashpal Committee has been submitted to the Union HRD Ministry. The new Union HRD Minister, Mr. Kapil Siwal, extolling the recommendations of the Yashpal Committee has vowed to implement those recommendations within a time frame of 100 days. It is a matter of grave concern that the Report of the Yashpal Committee, under the garb of some progressive talk regarding the low standard and extremely poor infrastructural facilities of the mushrooming private universities in some states, have proved to be another blueprint of all out privatisation-commercialisation of education in keeping with the National Policy on Education 1986 and the recent recommendations of National Knowledge Commission.

Among other things the Yashpal Committee has taken it for granted that privatisation will be the main thrust of education today and restructuring of the system of higher education should be done to facilitate self financed institutions set up by domestic and foreign investors. As a solution to the rampant fee hike like quite a number of earlier commissions it has recommended to make some arrangement of scholarship for poor but meritorious students and to provide loans to the students. It has recommended to scrap the UGC, AICTE, MCI and such other academic bodies and form a seven member controlling committee, viz., National Commission For Higher Education and Research, to accord recognition and degree granting power to the universities and medical, engineering and such other institutions. Obviously this is nothing but a step to make rules easier for the private and foreign investors for setting up totally commercial private universities and other institutions. Grants to the universities will be totally abolished and there will no more be cross checking by diverse academic bodies, which was supposed to be essential to ensure quality and standard of education of particular institutions. The committee has defined autonomy virtually as the right of the private institutional authorities to determine fees and terms and conditions of admission and evaluation of students. It has recommended that like higher education different school boards or councils should be abolished. Matriculation or Pre-university (Secondary or Higher Secondary) board examinations should be made optional, which will virtually lead to no detention and internal assessment. It has also recommended to introduce differential competitive remuneration of teachers on the basis of evaluation by students, which will be a dishonour for the teaching community. These recommendations are part and parcel of the design prescribed by the GATS and the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) and on the one hand it will lead towards totally non-democratic, fascistic control of the Central Government on entire education and will lead towards all out privatization and commercialization, which will destroy whatever remnants of secular scientific and democratic education have been there, defeat the basic objective of education i.e. man-making, character building, developing scientific bent of mind, totally.

We strongly condemn these recommendations of Yashpal Committee and demand of the Union HRD Minister to reject the Report. We urge upon the students, teachers and the education loving people, at large, to build up movement against these recommendations and the recommendations of GATS and NKC, which are the blueprints of privatization and commercialization of education.

With Greetings  
Sourav Mukherjee  
General Secretary  
All India Committee  
**All India DSO**