

and funding support; network development of distributed classrooms; tools and techniques development promotional role through le universities; training of categories of staff maintenance of standards and monitoring and R activities.

In order to undertake activities six task groups have been identified for standards and specifications including instructional design, learning objectives, metadata, object packaging and digital rights management, (ii) hardware software systems and the deployment and professional development of staff, connectivity options such as landline, microwave, cellular radio and satellite communication possibilities of continuous upgrading, (iv) user studies to consider mechanisms for continuous analysis of client needs and suggestions appropriate designs making the system client-centred, private-public partnership consider all forms of partnerships collaborations and suggestions maximizing the opportunity to all the stakeholders a (v) content development a related issues.

The role of COL will be to assist UGC in January, international experience a expertise; development international partnership and linkages; development content platforms, tools a techniques for developme

## Modern Technologies - the only alternative for Expansion of Higher Education : Prof. MM Joshi

Dr. Murli Manohar, Union Minister of Education, while addressing the Constituent Committee addressed to universities using parameters for academic performance, research performance and governance and providing incentives to universities and colleges scoring high on these parameters.

Joshi also called upon the UGC to rejuvenate the students' interest in basic sciences. He informed that the Government has decided to observe 2004 as the year of scientific awareness. Members were further informed about the recently issued regulations for establishment and maintenance of private universities. Dr. Joshi also emphasized the need for promotion of sports in universities.

The following members were present from Lok Sabha: S/Shri/Ms. Sharad Pawar, Savshibhai Makwana, Dr. Beatrix D'Souza, Vinay Kumar Sorake Ananta Nayak and Ramseth Thakur. The members present from Rajya Sabha were: S/Shri/Ms. Savita Sharda, Chandra Kala Pandey, Dr. A.K. Patel, Dr. Kumkum Rai, Dr. Faguni Ram, K. Rahman Khan, Jayantilal S. Barot

Dr. Joshi also informed the members about the steps initiated by the UGC for improving the relevance and quality of teaching and research,