

and funding support; network development and development of distributed classrooms; tools and techniques development; promotional role through lead universities; training of all categories of staff; maintenance of standards and monitoring and R&D activities. In order to undertake the activities six task groups have been identified for (i) standards and specifications, including instructional design, learning objects metadata, object packaging and digital rights management, (ii) hardware, software systems and their deployment and professional development of staff, (iii) connectivity options such as landline, microwave, cellular, radio and satellite communication with possibilities of continuous upgrading, (iv) user studies to consider mechanisms of continuous

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

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Union Minister of HRD and S&T, while addressing the Parliamentary Consultative Committee addressed to his Ministry, on 9th December, 2003, stated that the use of modern technologies such as satellite communication, internet and electronics is the only alternative available to expand higher education and improve the quality of teaching. He informed that a number of initiatives have been taken towards this and 124 universities have already been connected with the UGC's Information Network and the rest would be connected by March,

the traditional degree; identifying the universities with potential for excellence; to establish four National Institutes of Sciences at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Pune and Allahabad; monitoring the universities using parameters for academic performance, research performance and governance and providing incentives to universities and colleges scoring high on these parameters.

Dr. 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