



Minister of Higher Education S.B. Dissanayake who is on an official visit to India met on 28 September the Minister of Human Resource Development of India Kapil Sibal. High Commissioner Prasad Kariyawasam was also associated at the meeting.

The two Ministers discussed during their meeting bilateral cooperation in the education sector. Minister Dissanayake explained to Minister Sibal of the steps being taken by the Government of Sri Lanka for the modernization of higher education system in Sri Lanka.

He disclosed that beginning from 2012 the Government of Sri Lanka will offer 200 scholarships to students from Asia to study in Universities in Sri Lanka and about 40% of these scholarships would be granted to Indian students in promoting student exchange.

Stressing the need to revive the education facilities in the North and the East which were affected due to terrorism, Minister Dissanayake sought Indian assistance to set up a faculty of Engineering and to augment the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jaffna. He also explored the possibility of getting prominent Indian Professors and Senior Lecturers to undertake teaching assignments at Sri Lankan Universities during their sabbatical leave. The

two Ministers also discussed the possibility of training opportunities for Sri Lankan University lecturers in India.

With a view to agreeing on the proposed Programme of Action, Minister Dissanayake extended an invitation to Minister Sibal to visit Sri Lanka at a mutually convenient date later in the year.