

Sibal backs Rao's single admission test proposal

By **Kavita Chowdhury** in New Delhi

PRIME Minister's scientific advisor CNR Rao's proposal to do away with multiple examinations and have a single test for admission to higher educational institutions has got the full support of HRD minister Kapil Sibal.

Rao has suggested several steps for reforming the higher education sector and also made a presentation to Sibal earlier this week.

"The GRE in the US is one such test which tests the eligibility of students," Rao said.

The proposal has delighted Sibal as he has been urging for a single admission exam ever since 2009. He had to back-track on his decision because he faced opposition from many states.

Earlier, Rao had submitted his proposals in writing to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Subsequently, he had met Sibal with his proposals and urged the HRD ministry to act upon them.

Sibal from the time he took office in 2009, has been advocating for reducing the pressure on students and has called for a single technical/ engineering

admission test and a single medical test.

Significantly, another report by secretary in the department of science and technology T. Ramaswamy, who was mandated to review and propose a new admission system for technical institutions including the prestigious IITs, has also called for a common national aptitude test for all the technical institute admissions.

As this matter requires consensus from the states as well, the Ramaswamy-committee proposals will be put on the government website to invite public opinion.