

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1138
ANSWERED ON- 13/12/2023

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCY (HEFA)

1138 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:
Shri R.GIRIRAJAN:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) was tasked to mobilise ₹ 100000 crore to meet the infrastructure needs of higher educational institutions by 2022;
- (b) if so, the current status of HEFA and its works;
- (c) Whether it is a fact that out of the total number of Universities and Colleges in the country, only 318 Universities and 5,542 Colleges have been accredited by NAAC;
- (d) the State-wise and the number of Universities and Colleges accredited by NAAC; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to raise the standard of Universities and Colleges in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) and (b): To meet the infrastructure needs of higher educational institutions, a major initiative named “Revitalising Infrastructure and systems in Education (RISE)” was launched with total investment target of Rs. 1.00 lakh crore. HEFA was suitably structured for funding these initiatives.

HEFA was set up in May 2017 as a non-profit company under Section-8 of the Companies Act 2013 and registered as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) with RBI. HEFA has sanctioned loans of Rs. 36,644.76 crores to 101 institutions till date. Two financing windows, which had provision of 100% repayment of principal and interest through grants were closed, in consultation with Department of Expenditure. Institutions falling under these two windows were advised to be funded through budgetary grants. Closure of two windows resulted into lower demands of HEFA loan. In Third Party Evaluation conducted by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), it has been observed that HEFA has helped in faster implementation of infrastructure projects because of availability of finances through HEFA.

(c) and (d): As on date 452 universities and 9,642 colleges are accredited by NAAC. The state-wise details of the number of universities and colleges accredited by NAAC are attached at Annexure-1.

(e): Government has taken various initiatives / reforms to raise the standard of university and colleges, which are given below: -

(i) As part of NEP-2020 implementation -National Credit Framework (NCrF), National Higher Education Qualification Framework, Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), multiple entry/exit etc. have been introduced. Digital learning has been promoted through SWAYAM regulation permitting learners to earn up to 40% credit in a programme from SWAYAM platform.

(ii) University Grants Commission (UGC) has developed Curriculum and Credit framework for Under Graduate and Post Graduate Programme. Guidelines have been issued for Professor of Practice, apprenticeship-internship embedded Degree Programme, pursuing two academic programmes simultaneously etc.

(iii) UGC has notified the regulation on setting up foreign university campuses in India. Anushandhan National Research Foundation has been established by an act of parliament to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

(iv) Indian Knowledge System (IKS) has become an integral part of curriculum. Guideline has been issued for training of faculties on Indian Knowledge system.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) and (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1138 RAISED BY DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU & SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023 REGARDING 'HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCY (HEFA)'.

Sr. No.	State	Universities	Colleges	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	3	3
2	Andhra Pradesh	17	420	437
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3	9	12
4	Assam	9	284	293
5	Bihar	8	174	182
6	Chandigarh	2	15	17
7	Chhattisgarh	9	284	293
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	3	3
9	Daman & Diu	0	2	2
10	Delhi	21	96	117
11	Goa	1	27	28
12	Gujarat	30	500	530
13	Haryana	19	345	364
14	Himachal Pradesh	10	73	83
15	Jammu and Kashmir	7	118	125
16	Jharkhand	7	142	149
17	Karnataka	36	1022	1058
18	Kerala	8	341	349
19	Ladakh	0	3	3
20	Madhya Pradesh	18	345	363
21	Maharashtra	36	2068	2104
22	Manipur	1	42	43
23	Meghalaya	2	25	27
24	Mizoram	1	26	27
25	Nagaland	1	36	37
26	Odisha	17	306	323
27	Puducherry	2	31	33
28	Punjab	15	288	303
29	Rajasthan	34	273	307
30	Sikkim	3	9	12
31	Tamil Nadu	46	884	930
32	Telangana	16	297	313
33	Tripura	2	24	26
34	Uttar Pradesh	40	627	667
35	Uttarakhand	14	83	97
36	West Bengal	17	417	434
	All India	452	9642	10094