

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-368
ANSWERED ON- 06/12/2023

DRAFT BILL ON HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

368. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Draft 'University Grants Commission (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations' Bill 2023 adequately addresses the concern of exclusionary education, including aid and reservations for lower socio-economic groups unable to afford high fees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for 'Internationalisation of Higher Education in India' as stated in the draft bill;
- (d) whether Government has boosted incentives for public educational institutions to compete with Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEI), if the bill passes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (c): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified The UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023 dated 07.11.2023. The regulations aim to facilitate the entry of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) into India, in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020, and to provide an international dimension to higher education in India. These regulations inter-alia stipulate that the FHEIs may provide full or partial merit-based or need-based scholarships and give tuition fee concessions to students who are Indian citizens. The regulations are available at:

<https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/Setting%20up%20and%20Operation%20of%20Campuses%20of%20Foreign%20Higher%20Educational%20Institutions%20in%20India.pdf>.

(d) & (e): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 focuses on attaining the highest global standards in the quality of higher education. Further, it reinforces the need to attract a large number of international students and achieve the goal of "internationalisation at home". This policy also provides for promoting India as a "global study destination providing premium education at affordable costs".

In line with the recommendations of NEP, 2020, the UGC has issued guidelines for Internationalisation of Higher Education on 29.07.2021. These Guidelines enumerate various strategies and initiatives for internationalization through a wide array of activities such as internationally relevant curricula, brand building of Indian Higher Education institutions abroad, academic and research collaboration with foreign universities, credit recognition under twinning arrangements, global citizenship approach and engaging with foreign alumni. To further facilitate the internationalisation of Indian HEIs, on 30.09.2022, the UGC has issued guidelines for admission and creation of supernumerary seats for international students with an objective to facilitate smooth and simple admission of international students in higher educational institutions of India, to create a favourable environment for attracting international students to Indian higher education system and to make India a preferred destination for international students. These guidelines inter-alia provide that HEIs may create up to 25% supernumerary seats for international students, over and above of their total sanctioned enrolment for Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes.

The UGC (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) Regulations, 2022 have also been notified on 2nd May, 2022. These Regulations shall promote enhanced academic collaboration with FHEIs leading towards academic and research excellence in the Indian HEIs. It is expected that academic and research collaboration as well as mobility of students and faculty through joint degree and dual degree programmes will be highly beneficial for the Indian HEIs to achieve higher global rankings.

For creating an enabling environment whereby Indian HEIs can become institutions of global excellence, the UGC (Categorisation of Universities (Only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018 have been notified on 12th February, 2018. These regulations are aimed to provide autonomy to the HEIs based on quality benchmarks.

An MoU for setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar- Tanzania has been signed on 5-7-2023 between the Ministry of Education (MOE), Govt. of India, IIT Madras and Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MOEVT) Zanzibar-Tanzania. Another MoU has also been signed between MoE, Govt. of India, IIT Delhi and Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (United Arab Emirates), on 15-7-2023, for setting up of campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.

Further, to empower the Higher Educational Institutions and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions, the Government launched the Institutions of Eminence scheme in 2017. Government Institutions are provided financial assistance of ₹ 1000 crores each in addition to the grant already being received. Funds amounting to ₹ 4933.50 crores have been released under this scheme, out of which ₹ 1206.505 crores have been released during the Financial Year 2023-24 (as on 30.11.2023).
