

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 26
ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

Decline in educational standards in Maharashtra

***26 Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) whether there is decline in standards of educational institutions in Maharashtra, particularly the drop in ranking of Mumbai University for two consecutive years, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) despite the prominence of Maharashtra in agriculture, the reasons why none of the four agricultural universities in the State are ranked among the top 40;
- (c) the measures Ministry has taken or plans to take to improve educational quality in Maharashtra; and
- (d) how much funding has the Central Government allocated to Universities in Maharashtra, and what are the specific allocations for each university?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) of RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DR. FAUZIA KHAN REGARDING DECLINE IN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN MAHARASHTRA.

(a) to (b): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was launched by the Government of India with an aim to transform and improve the education quality of the country. NEP also aims to provide a standard of education that is inclusive, equitable, and of high quality, empowering learners for the future and contributing to national development. The NEP guides alignment and strengthening of digital tools to improve Quality of Education in the country.

To promote a healthy competition among educational institutes and universities, National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched by the Government of India in 2015. The methodology of these rankings based on 5 broad parameters which are "Teaching, Learning and Resources," "Research and Professional Practices," "Graduation Outcomes," "Outreach and Inclusivity," and "Peer Perception". The Mumbai University has participated in these rankings and got total score of 47.23 in 2024 as compared to 45.86 in 2023, indicating improvement on parameter of NIRF. However, rank of a university depends on total score of other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) participating in NIRF.

A special category of "Agriculture and Allied Sectors" has been introduced in NIRF ranking in 2023. Maharashtra has total 6 Agricultural Universities. All these 6 agricultural universities have participated in the NIRF rankings. The ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) in Mumbai got 7th rank in 2023 and 9th rank in 2024. Other five State Agricultural universities in Maharashtra, namely Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Ahmednagar; Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur; Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola; and Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Ratnagiri; and Vasanttrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani have shown increase in total score achieved in 2024 as compared to 2023.

(c) to (d): The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was established by University Grants Commission (UGC) to conduct assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and ensure conformance in terms of performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organisation, governance, financial well-being and student services. As part of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation, the Maharashtra Government has made NAAC accreditation mandatory with effect from September 2023. Maharashtra has 51% Universities and 53% Colleges accredited.

Government of India also provides financial support to State Governments under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)/ Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme under three components namely, "Enhancing Quality and Excellence in select State Universities", "Infrastructure Grants to Universities" and "Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU)" for improvement in Higher Education. A total of Rs. 1417.18 Crore has been approved to the state of Maharashtra since its inception. Out of the total amount approved for Maharashtra Rs. 880 cr. has been approved for various Universities of the State. The details are at **Annexure-I**.

Further University Grants Commission (UGC) has also taken several initiatives to enhance the quality of education, including financial support to HEIs. Some of the important initiatives are

Guidelines for Internship/Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program, establishment of Research and Development Cells in HEIs, promoted the concept of Professor of Practice, Accessibility guidelines and standards for Higher Educational Institutions and Universities, started UTSAH Portal (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) to track achievements of NEP 2020, issued Curriculum and Guidelines on Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) 2.0, Malaviya Mission Teachers Training Programme, etc. UGC has released Rs. 224.53 Cr to Universities / HEIs in Maharashtra to enhance quality of education under several schemes in the year 2023-2024. Details are at **Annexure-II**.

Government of India has undertaken several initiatives to enhance agricultural education across the country including Maharashtra. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi revised the course curriculum as per National Education Policy-2020 for Under Graduate programmes in all agricultural & allied disciplines, Post Graduate programmes in agricultural and allied disciplines were revised during 2022 to align with latest technological developments. ICAR has also introduced new programme of teaching methodology in the form of blended learning platform involving newer method of learning with offline as well as digital based teaching. The ICAR also launched National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) to improve the quality education in Agricultural Universities. Under this project, Smart class rooms/Virtual class rooms, Digitalized Conference halls, Acoustic studios, Geospatial Labs, Language Labs, Data Analytics Lab, Alumni Cell, Learning Assessment Centers (LAC), Placement cell, Counseling Cell, Industry Institute Interaction Cell, etc. have been created which have led the institutions to the new level of academic ambience. International and national trainings were also imparted to faculty and students to enhance their competencies. All the Agricultural Universities in the state of Maharashtra were the part of NAHEP.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also provides financial support to Agricultural Universities through three central sector schemes namely, “Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India”, “Fellowship/ scholarship” and “National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)”. These schemes have provided financial support to all the six Agricultural Universities in Maharashtra. Details of funds allocated to the Agricultural Universities in Maharashtra under these components are at **Annexure-III**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (d) OF STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) of RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DR. FAUZIA KHAN REGARDING DECLINE IN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN MAHARASHTRA

Funds approved under RUSA/PM-USHA to Universities in Maharashtra

(Rupees in Cr.)

S. No.	Institution Name	Total Amount Approved
1	Dr Homi Bhabha State University Mumbai	20.00
2	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada Univ,Aurangabad	120.00
3	Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere (U-0299)	20.00
4	Gondwana University, Gadchiroli	100.00
5	Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	20.00
6	Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek (U-0310)	20.00
7	North Maharashtra Univ. Jalgaon	20.00
8	Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur	100.00
9	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur	40.00
10	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati	40.00
11	Savitribai Phule Univ. Pune (U-0323)	120.00
12	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	40.00
13	Shreemati Nathaibai Damodar Thakersey Univ. Mumbai	120.00
14	Solapur University Solapur	20.00
15	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded	40.00
16	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	40.00
	Total	880.00

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (d) OF STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) of RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DR. FAUZIA KHAN REGARDING DECLINE IN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN MAHARASHTRA

Details of funds released by UGC to Universities in Maharashtra

(Rupees in Cr.)

S. No.	Name of the University	2023-24
1.	Institute of Chemical Technology, Matunga	5.69
2.	SGB Amravati University, Amravati	3.70
3.	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	8.26
4.	Dr. B.A. Marathwada University, Aurangabad	6.13
5.	RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur	7.02
6.	North Maharashtra, Jalgaon	2.15
7.	Pune University, Pune	15.78
8.	S.N.D.T Women's University, Mumbai	0.41
9.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	3.35
10.	S.R.T. Marathwada University, Nanded	0.61
11.	University of Solapur	0.20
12.	Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University	1.00
13.	MGA Hindi University, Wardha	61.42
14.	IIM, NAGPUR	0.15
15.	IISER, PUNE	0.09
16.	Gokhale Institute of Political Economics, Pune	2.43
17.	Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai	106.07
	TOTAL	224.53

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (d) OF STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DR. FAUZIA KHAN REGARDING DECLINE IN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN MAHARASHTRA

Details of funds allocated by Ministry of Agriculture for Agricultural Universities in Maharashtra

(Rs. in Cr.)

S. No.	Agriculture and allied Universities	Strengthening and Development		Fellowships/ Scholarships		NAHEP
		2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2018-24
1	Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli	1.98	2.19	0.60	0.68	9.47
2	Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	3.38	2.92	1.39	1.39	5.00
3	Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur	3.03	2.27	2.14	2.11	17.17
4	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	6.35	2.91	1.54	1.30	24.23
5	Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani	4.29	3.33	1.72	1.87	17.87
6	Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai	3.41	2.97	1.43	1.57	24.77
	Total	22.44	16.59	8.84	8.96	98.53