

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- 332
ANSWERED ON- 02/04/2025

Draft UGC Guidelines

332 Shri Tiruchi Siva:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the widespread concerns regarding the draft UGC guidelines, particularly their impact on the autonomy of the State Universities;

(b) whether the Ministry acknowledges that the uniform imposition of qualifications such as NET/SET fails to account for the unique academic and cultural contributions of educators;

(c) whether the Ministry has reviewed the objections raised regarding the growing role of the Governor as Chancellor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and whether any consultations with the State Governments and academic institutions have been conducted?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

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

**STATEMENT REFEREED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 FOR 02.04.2025 ASKED BY SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA,
HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARTLIAMENT REGARDING DRAFT UGC GUIDELINES.**

(a) to (d) : Education is a subject in the Concurrent List and both the Parliament and the State legislatures have powers to legislate. As per Entry 66, List I of Schedule VII to the Constitution of India, the power to legislate for “Co-ordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions”, vests in the Central Government. Section 26 (1) (e) of University Grants Commission (UGC) Act 1956 empowers UGC to make Regulations regarding ‘defining the qualifications that should ordinarily be required of any person to be appointed to the teaching staff of the University, having regard to the branch of education in which he is expected to give instruction’. Section 26 (1) (g) of UGC Act 1956 empowers UGC to make regulations ‘regulating the maintenance of standards and the co-ordination of work or facilities in Universities’.

The draft regulations have set either NET/SET or PhD as the minimum qualification for the post of Assistant Professor, to balance national standards and state autonomy in higher education. Further, these regulations are designed to ensure academic excellence while respecting the diverse educational frameworks of different states. Moreover, the UGC draft regulations 2025 aim to create more inclusive and multidisciplinary higher education ecosystem, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, by allowing professionals with diverse expertise, including those with NET/SET qualification, with the objective to bring fresh perspectives, industry experience, and research excellence into academia. While NET/SET is an important eligibility criterion, faculty selection will continue to be rigorous, ensuring that candidates possess the necessary subject knowledge, research aptitude, and teaching skills. Moreover, Universities will have the autonomy to assess a candidate’s suitability through interviews, research contributions, and other academic credentials.

As part of consultation process on the Draft UGC Regulations 2025, Vice Chancellors of Central universities from all States were consulted and it was also shared with all the Principal Secretaries (Higher Education) of all States, Chairmen of all State Higher Education Councils, IITs, IIMs NITs, and Industry bodies. Further, UGC uploaded the Draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025 on the UGC website on 6th January 2025 for feedback. UGC has received feedback on the draft regulations many of which has appreciated it. However, some of the feedback received has suggested improvements on the provisions relating to role of Chancellor and constitution of the selection committee for appointment of Vice Chancellor. These feedback are at different stages of analysis and deliberations.
