

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3535
ANSWERED ON- 02/04/2025

Appointment of Vice-Chancellors in State Universities

3535 Shri Haris Beeran:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any measure to address the concerns raised by States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka, regarding the draft UGC regulations, 2025 on appointment of Vice-Chancellors in State Universities;
- (b) the rationale behind the proposed regulations, given that the State Governments contribute nearly 80 per cent of the funding for State Universities;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the potential centralization and commercialisation of higher education through this proposal, and if so, the corrective actions taken in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken to ensure autonomy of the State Governments for such matters under the Concurrent List?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(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’.

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.

The UGC Draft Regulations 2025 strongly uphold and reinforce India's federal structure by balancing national standards and state autonomy in higher education. These Regulations are designed to ensure academic excellence while respecting the diverse educational frameworks of different states. These regulations proposes a three member Search-cum-selection Committee for appointment of Vice-Chancellor. These members are to be nominated by impartial Statutory Bodies to ensure transparency in selection process as well as to ensure autonomy of the University. Further, the regulations set minimum standards but allow state universities to frame their own additional criteria over and above the minimum standards for faculty appointments and promotions, preserving the autonomy of state universities while ensuring quality standards.
