GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1953
ANSWERED ON- 06/08/2025

Merger of AICTE and UGC

1953 Dr. M. Thambidurai:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government was mulling over the idea of merger of AICTE and UGC;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of merger;
(c) whether it is also a fact that the UGC is the overall controlling body for all Universities including the Deemed Universities and State Universities;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) the details of the action UGC is taking against Universities that violate the guidelines regarding admissions, like total intake vs sanctioned intake, courses offered without approval, etc; and
(f) details of further action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, envisions a 'light but tight' regulatory framework to ensure integrity, transparency, and resource efficiency of the educational system through audit and public disclosure while encouraging innovation and out-of-the-box ideas through autonomy, good governance, and empowerment. The Policy further envisions setting up of a Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) as an umbrella body with independent verticals to performs distinct functions of regulation, accreditation, funding, and academic standard setting.

Considering the above vision of NEP 2020, the Ministry is in the process of drafting a HECI Bill.

(c) & (d): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. 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'.

(e) & (f): The Universities are established either by an Act of the Parliament or by Acts of the State Legislatures and they are governed by the rules/regulations made thereunder. The Ministry does not interfere in the administrative and academic matters of the Universities. However, UGC issues guidelines from time to time for increasing the academic and administrative efficiency of the Universities.

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