

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1945
ANSWERED ON- 17/12/2025

Draft UGC Regulations, 2025

1945 Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the draft University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff) Regulations, 2025 may reduce the role of State Governments and University governing bodies, potentially affecting the federal balance under the Concurrent List; and
- (b) whether the draft regulations permit appointment of Vice-Chancellors without prior academic experience and, if so, the reasons for proposing such a provision?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): 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 UGG Act, 1956 empowers UGC to make regulations 'regulating the maintenance of standards and the co-ordination of work or facilities in Universities'.

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. The draft UGC Regulations, 2025 provide more autonomy to the States and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). 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.

The draft Regulations provides for promoting regional languages, Indian Knowledge Systems, and community engagement structures which ensures that state-specific priorities are protected. Expanding the pool of potential candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor will enhance rather than dilute academic standards by bringing in diverse expertise, leadership excellence, and a broader vision for higher education. The draft UGC Regulations ensure that only the most distinguished individuals with exceptional academic, research, and administrative credentials are eligible for the role of Vice-Chancellor.

The Regulations provides that candidates must have a minimum of 10 years of experience at a senior level in higher education, research institutions, public administration, public policy, public sector organizations, or industry with a proven track record of academic contributions. This expands the leadership talent pool while maintaining rigorous eligibility criteria, ensuring that universities are led by individuals with strategic vision, governance experience, and deep academic insight.

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, universities benefit from leaders who understand both academia and industry trends. Candidates from research organizations, public policy, and industry bring valuable and global insights into multidisciplinary education, research innovation, collaborations, enriching universities rather than compromising academic quality.
