

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1320
ANSWERED ON- 11/02/2026

Professor of Practice

1320. Dr. V. Sivadasan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Professors of Practice appointed in Central Universities, Centrally funded educational institutions in the country during last five years, year-wise and institution-wise;

(b) the total number of Professors of Practice appointed in private Universities and State Universities, details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether any reservation or affirmative action criteria (including SC, ST, OBC, EWS, PwDs, etc.) are applicable in such appointments and the details thereof; and

(d) the number of persons appointed, including women, men and persons of other gender identities, as Professors of Practice during the said period, year-wise, gender-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): The National Education Policy 2020 seeks to transform higher education by focusing on skill-based education to meet the needs of the industry and the economy. Further, the NEP also recommends integrating vocational education with general education and strengthening industry- academia collaboration in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs). Towards this end, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken the initiative to bring the industry and other professional expertise into the academic institutions through "Professor of Practice". UGC has framed Guidelines for engaging Professor of Practice in Universities and Colleges on 30.09.2022.

The post of Professor of Practice is a temporary post, exclusive of sanctioned post. Further, candidates who have proven expertise in their specific profession or role with at least 15 years of service /experience, preferably at a senior level, are eligible for Professor of Practice. For engaging industry experts and professionals, HEIs may collaborate with the industries to support these positions. It also provides an opportunity, to those in leadership positions in different fields, to come on honorary basis as Professor of Practice so as to give back to the society and contribute towards nation building.

In order to bring in distinguished experts from various fields of engineering, science, technology, entrepreneurship etc. and to develop courses and curriculum to meet the industry and societal needs and to enable the HEIs to work with industry experts on joint research project, concept of Professor of Practice has been adopted, and thereby provide exposure and mentorship to students by domain experts.

The maximum duration of service of Professor of Practice at a given institution should not exceed three years and is extendable by one year in exceptional cases and the total service should not exceed four years under any circumstances.

As per the details shared/ reported by the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) on the UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) Portal, as on 05.01.2026, the total number of Professors of Practice appointed was 1841 from 349 HEIs (Universities and colleges). The details may be seen in the enclosed **Annexure**.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1320 ANSWERED ON 11.02.2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DR. V. SIVADASAN REGARDING "PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE".

Status of appointment of Professors of Practice (PoPs), Institutions Category wise, as on 05.01.2026		
Type of HEIs	Number of HEIs	Number of Professor of Practice in place
Central University	11	15
Deemed to be University	63	699
Private University	181	715
State University	57	212
Total	312	1641
College	37	200
Grand Total	349	1841

State wise status of appointment of PoPs as on 05.01.2026		
State	Number of HEIs	Number of Professor of Practice in place
Andhra Pradesh	13	81
Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
Assam	9	26
Bihar	3	3
Chhattisgarh	8	11
Delhi	7	16
Gujarat	38	179
Haryana	19	80
Himachal Pradesh	9	24
Jammu and Kashmir	4	4
Jharkhand	7	14
Karnataka	26	170
Kerala	6	13
Madhya Pradesh	21	58
Maharashtra	36	193
Meghalaya	5	21
Odisha	8	132
Puducherry	1	6
Punjab	11	49
Rajasthan	16	74
Sikkim	4	25
Tamil Nadu	37	395
Telangana	8	34

Tripura	3	10
Uttar Pradesh	26	157
Uttarakhand	13	33
West Bengal	10	32
Grand Total	349	1841