

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2796
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026

UGC funding and institutional autonomy

2796 Shri Pawan Khera:

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

- (a) the funds allocated, released and utilised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) during last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the grants released by the UGC to Central, State, Deemed and Private Universities during the said period, category-wise;
- (c) whether Government has reviewed the decline in grants to State Universities, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the major policy changes made during last five years relating to the powers, autonomy and regulatory functions of the UGC, including appointment of Vice- Chancellors and higher education governance; and
- (e) whether any further reforms of the UGC are under consideration?

ANSWER

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

(a): The details of total funds released by the Ministry of Education and utilised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) during 2021-22 to 2025-26, are as under: -

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Fund released	13839.43	16859.87	19054.74	19770.47	20527.43
Expenditure	13606.52	16080.55	18676.31	19742.07	20507.48

(b) & (c): Out of the total funds released to UGC during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, funds amounting to Rs. 73,148.65 crore and Rs. 2,743.04 Crore have been released by UGC to the Central Universities and Institutions Deemed to be Universities respectively.

The Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), was launched in 2013 with the objective of providing funding to eligible State Higher Educational Institutions. The aim of this scheme is to achieve mass access to higher education with high quality standards. Funding is provided to the State Universities and Colleges by the Department of Higher Education, Government of India under RUSA. The

Government has launched the third phase of RUSA in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26. Under the Scheme, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including construction of hostels, academic and administrative buildings, laboratories and other facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education.

The year-wise details of Central Share released to the States/UTs under PM-USHA/RUSA during the last five financial years and current financial year are as given below:

(Rs.in Crore)

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 (As on 06.08.2026)
Central Share Released	249.13	359.50	181.06	350.83	864.25	507.00

After implementation of the RUSA, UGC does not provide any development grants to State Universities per se. After the 12th Plan period, UGC has released funds to State Universities, including private universities, only for settlement on reimbursement basis under the UGC Schemes sanctioned earlier. Towards this expenditure, total funds amounting to Rs. 931.44 crore have been released by UGC during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. Further, an amount of Rs.1818.46 crore was released to Punjab University, an Inter-State Body Corporate, as fixed salary grant during the same period.

(d) & (e): The UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018, notified on 18th July 2018, inter alia provide for the minimum qualification for appointment and other service conditions of University and College teachers, Librarians, and Directors of Physical Education and Sports as a measure for the maintenance of standards in higher education.

The National Education Policy (NEP) envisages 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. Accordingly, the Ministry has introduced the Vikshit Bharat Shiksha Adhithan Bill, 2025 in Lok Sabha on December 15, 2025. This Bill has been referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament.
