

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *239
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2018

Autonomy to Universities and Colleges

†*239. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several commissions and committees have recommended reforms but failed to bring about any substantive change in the basic regulations under the University Grants Commission(UGC) Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any such committee has recommended for providing autonomy to universities and colleges and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) whether the Government has also categorised the universities and colleges for providing them autonomy and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †*239 FOR 12.03.2018 ASKED BY SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE AND SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING AUTONOMY TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

(a) to (d): No, Madam. Substantive changes have been made in the basic regulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC). With a view to provide autonomy, promote quality and create an enabling environment whereby Higher Educational Institutions can become institutions of global excellence, UGC has taken several initiatives in the form of Regulations i.e. UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016, UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2016, National Academic Depository (NAD), UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017, UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2017, the UGC (Categorization of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018 and the UGC (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous colleges) Regulations, 2018. These regulations are available on the UGC's website at www.ugc.ac.in.

UGC recognises that autonomy is pivotal to promoting and institutionalising excellence in higher education and that the regulatory framework needs to facilitate better performing institutions towards excellence in higher education. With this objective, UGC has notified the UGC (Categorisation of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018. Under Graded Autonomy Regulations, Universities having NAAC score of 3.51 or above or have received a corresponding score/grade from a reputed accreditation agency empanelled by the UGC or have been ranked among top 500 of reputed world rankings are placed in Category-I. Universities having NAAC score of 3.26 and above, upto 3.50 or have received a corresponding accreditation grade/score from a reputed Accreditation Agency empanelled by the UGC are placed in Category-II. The Universities which do not come under the above two categories are placed in Category-III.

Dimensions of autonomy include starting of new courses/programmes/departments, research parks, incubation centres, hiring of foreign faculty and admission of foreign students on merit etc.

Under Autonomous Colleges Regulations, Colleges of any discipline accredited with a score of 3.0 and above, up to 3.25 on a 4 point scale of NAAC/corresponding NBA score / corresponding accreditation score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency at the time of application shall be considered for grant of autonomous status with an on-site visit of the duly constituted Expert Committee.

Colleges which have a NAAC score of 3.26 and above, up to 3.50 or a corresponding NBA score or a corresponding accreditation Grade/score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency for one complete cycle and also accredited accordingly in the second cycle, shall be considered for grant of autonomous status without onsite visit by the Expert Committee.

Colleges with 3.51 and above in a 4 point scale of NAAC or a minimum of three programmes have been accredited by NBA with a minimum score of 750 individually or a corresponding accreditation Grade/score from a UGC empanelled accreditation agency at the time of application shall be considered for grant of autonomous status without onsite visit by the Expert Committee. Such autonomous colleges can issue mark sheets, migration and other certificates, evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct examinations and announce results on their own.
