

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2541  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2018

**Higher Education**

2541. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the quality is a major concern in higher education in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is making efforts to bring higher education at par with the standards of the best in the world; and
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps in this direction and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(Dr. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has intimated that it has been constantly striving to develop a system of higher education of quality, appropriate to the national needs and aspirations and in tune with global trends. The Commission is committed to constant improvement of the quality of higher education and defining excellence in the processes of teaching, learning and research.

In order to ensure quality of higher education is further streamlined, UGC has notified the following regulations which are mandatory for every institution of higher education across the country:

- **UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016** notified in order to maintain strong checks on the quality of research output being produced in the country. These regulations ensure elimination of malpractices in the admission process as well as the progression towards award of an M.Phil or Ph.D. degree.
- **UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2016** - One of the salient features of these regulations is to promote collaboration between the quality institutions of India with reputed foreign institutions.
- **UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2017** have been notified to create a distinct category of Deemed to be Universities, called Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities, so as to evolve into Institutions of world class in reasonable time period and also to assist Indian Higher Education Institutions to get a rank within the top 100 in globally renowned rankings.
- **UGC (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018** have

been notified on 12.02.2018. These regulations ensure that quality Institutions become autonomous to enhance quality of education on one side and to promote innovation in teaching and research on the other side.

- **University Grants Commission (Categorisation of Universities (Only) For Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018** have been notified on 12.02.2018 to provide autonomy based on quality benchmark to the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). Under these 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.

Further, UGC has initiated many endeavors to improve the quality of Higher Education and to meet the global standards. Some of the recent ones are listed below :

**Research & Relevance:** In order to encourage research and development in the country, UGC has laid out a number of schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes under which financial assistance is provided to institutions of higher education as well as faculty members working therein to undertake quality research in almost all areas of knowledge across disciplines including revival and promotion of indigenous languages.

1. Universities with Potential for Excellence: This scheme has continued since IX Plan wherein financial assistance is provided to eligible institutions
2. Centre with potential for excellence in particular area: (CPEPA) - UGC introduced the scheme of Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area (CPEPA) during IX Plan period, which has been continued upto XII Plan period for development of academic/research infrastructure to improve the programmes and activities in a chosen discipline at the selected university.
3. Special Assistance Programme (SAP): Special Assistance Programme is intended to encourage the pursuit of excellence and teamwork in advanced teaching and research as well as to accelerate the realization of international standards in specific fields.
4. Research Projects: UGC provides financial assistance to teachers teaching in universities and colleges to promote excellence in teaching and research.
5. Basic Science Research: With a view to providing an opportunity for continuance of research contributions in Basic Science Research by talented Science and technology scholars /teachers.

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