

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No.61  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2018

**Higher Education Commission of India**

†\*61. SHRI NAGARRODMAL:  
PROF. (DR.) SUGATA BOSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to repeal the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1951 and set up Higher Education Commission of India (HECI);
- (b) if so, the salient features including the composition of the proposed Commission along with its aims and objectives and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has sought the views of eminent educationists and the public on the proposed HECI and if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) the extent to which the Government feels that the quality of higher education can be improved across the country and the funds disbursement to central universities will be made in a transparent way; and
- (e) the time by which the said Commission will be set up?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.†\*61 FOR 23.07.2018 ASKED BY SHRI NAGARODMAL AND PROF. (DR.) SUGATA BOSE, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, REGARDING HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION OF INDIA.**

(a):The Ministry has prepared a draft Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018 to repeal the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 and for establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) for promoting the quality of academic instruction, maintenance of academic standards and autonomy of higher educational institutions for free pursuit of knowledge, innovation, incubation, skills and entrepreneurship, and for facilitating access, inclusion and opportunities to all, and providing for comprehensive and holistic growth of higher education and research in a competitive global environment.

(b) to (d): At the time of establishing the UGC, total number of Higher Educational Institutions were very small in number in the country. There were only 20 universities and nearly 500 colleges with a total enrolment estimated to be 0.21 million. Over the last six decades the size, scale and complexities of India's Higher Education Sector has increased manifold and it is now considered to be one of the largest Higher Education Systems in the world with over 900 universities and 40,000 colleges, both in public and private sector. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in the country is at 25.2% with a total enrolment estimated to be about 35.7 million.

With the increase in number of Higher Educational Institutions, the expert committees such as Hari Gautam Committee recommended that the regulator should focus on promotion of quality teaching and research and usher measures to bring the much needed reforms in the higher education sector. The draft Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018 now proposes to enable the Commission to perform its role effectively in attaining standards and enhancing quality in higher education.

The proposed Higher Education Commission of India will focus largely on promoting the quality of academic instruction, maintenance of academic standards and grant of autonomy of higher educational institutions. The grant disbursement function to

Universities and Colleges is now proposed to be located in an entity which works in a transparent, merit-based approach through an ICT enabled platform.

Further, the draft Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018 has been put in public domain on 27.06.2018 for seeking comments and suggestions from educationists, stakeholders and general public before 20.07.2018. The Ministry has received 9,926 suggestions/comments covering Members of Parliament, State Governments, academicians, teacher unions, Chambers of Commerce, students etc. and appropriate changes are being made in the draft Bill based on the public feedback.

(e): The Ministry is in the process of finalization of the draft Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018 based on the suggestions/comments received from various stakeholders viz. Members of Parliament, State Governments, academicians, teacher unions, Chamber of Commerce, students etc.

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