

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.935
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

Replacing UGC with HECI

**935. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:
SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is replacing University Grants Commission with a new Higher Education Commission of India (HECI);
- (b) if so, the reasons for this new initiative;
- (c) by introducing this new Commission, Government is trying to keep the fund granting authority with itself;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has received objections from various sections of people, if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): With an increase in number of Higher Educational Institutions over the last decade, expert committees have recommended that the regulator should focus more on promotion of quality teaching and research and usher measures to bring the much needed reforms in the higher education sector. In this backdrop, 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.

(c) & (d): The Ministry is not proposing to keep the fund granting authority with itself. It is being proposed that an independent Office under the ambit of the proposed Commission, shall disburse financial assistance by way of grants to higher educational

institutions in a transparent, merit-based approach through a technology enabled framework.

(e): The draft Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018 was 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 received more than ten thousand suggestions/comments covering Members of Parliament, State Governments, academicians, teacher unions, Chambers of Commerce, students etc. and appropriate changes have been made in the draft Bill based on the feedback received from various stakeholders.
