

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 852
ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2022

TRANSFORMATION OF COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

852. DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has finalised guidelines for transforming colleges and universities into multidisciplinary institutions and has prescribed three different approaches which include clustering of establishments located in proximity to each other;

(b) whether it is a fact that promoting multidisciplinary institutions was a key recommendation of the National Education Policy, 2020 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the UGC has also suggested capacity building for faculty so that they can teach, train and research in multidisciplinary academic programmes and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the setting up of education departments in universities and colleges that will teach curriculum design, pedagogy, communication and writing to future teachers was another aspect the UGC desires; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (e): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, regarding Institutional Restructuring and Consolidation, states that the main thrust of the policy is to end the fragmentation of higher education by transforming higher education institutions into large multidisciplinary universities, colleges, and HEI clusters/Knowledge Hubs, each of which will aim to have 3,000 or more students. The NEP, 2020 further states that moving to large multidisciplinary universities and HEI clusters is thus the highest recommendation of this policy regarding the structure of higher education.

On 02.09.2022 the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines for Transforming Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) into multidisciplinary institutions. The objectives of these guidelines are to transform single-stream institutions into large multidisciplinary universities and autonomous degree-awarding HEIs, and strengthen institutional infrastructure necessary for multidisciplinary education and research. These guidelines also inter-alia state that capacity-building for faculty to teach, train and to do research in multidisciplinary academic programmes need adequate focus and visualize establishment of Department of Education in multidisciplinary institutions. The guidelines are available at https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5599305_Guidelines-for-Transforming-Higher-Education-Institutions-into-Multidisciplinary-Institutions.pdf.
