

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2079
ANSWERED ON- 09/12/2024

INADEQUATE FUNDING TO UNIVERSITIES

2079. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure universities uphold their objectives of academic excellence and autonomy instead of becoming tools of political control;
- (b) the reasons for releasing inadequate funds to Universities causing stipend cuts and poor facilities for students;
- (c) the details of funds allocated and released during the last ten years;
- (d) the justification for imposing declarations on students banning protests and requiring disclosure of health conditions, violating basic human rights; and
- (e) the measures to address diplomatic fallout caused by the mistreatment of foreign faculty and resignations of eminent academics in globally significant institutions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR.SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (e): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. Various schemes/projects/ programmes run by the Ministry have been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. University Grants Commission (UGC) is mandated to determine, promote and maintain the standards of higher education in the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Recognizing that autonomy is pivotal to promoting and institutionalizing excellence in higher education and that the regulatory framework needs to facilitate better performing institutions towards excellence in higher education, UGC has notified the following Regulations: -

- The University Grants Commission (Categorization of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018.

- The University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2023

The Ministry has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) as Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) in June 2023 with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 to cater to needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, including in the rural areas, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/ UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc.

Ministry of Education has spent Rs. 3,28,881.56 crores for improvement and maintenance to higher education institutions (Central Universities, State Universities, IIT, IIM etc.) of various states during the last ten years from financial year 2014-15 to 2023-24.
