

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.225
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2025

Equal Opportunity Cells in Universities/HEIs

225. Shri S Venkatesan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Universities/Higher learning institutions under the ambit of UGC, category-wise (Central and State etc.);
- (b) whether these institutes constituted "Equal Opportunity Cells" as prescribed by "The UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012";
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the universities/higher learning institutions that have not yet constituted "Equal Opportunity Cells" as per 2012 regulations; and
- (e) the action initiated by the Government /UGC against such Universities/HEIs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a): According to the information received from the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 47 Central Universities, 495 State Universities, 502 Private Universities and 131 Deemed to be Universities under the ambit of UGC.

(b to e): UGC had formulated Guidelines for the Scheme of Equal Opportunity Centres for Colleges under the XII Plan (2012-2017). As per the XII Plan data, 1680 Colleges recognized by the UGC established Equal Opportunity Cells (EOCs).

Further, the UGC notified UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012. As per the information available with UGC, all the Central Universities; except the newly established Sindhu Central University, Ladakh and Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University, Mulugu, Telangana; have established EOCs. Out of the 06 UGC funded Deemed to be Universities (DTBUs), 05 have established EOCs. Majority of State Public Universities, State Private Universities and un-aided DTBUs have also set up EOCs.

UGC, vide its letter dated 10.01.2025, has requested all the Universities and Colleges to establish Equal Opportunity Cell and SC/ST Cell to ensure the effective and transparent redressal of grievances of the disadvantaged groups, in compliance to the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012.
