

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2698**  
ANSWERED ON- 17/03/2025

**New UGC Draft Regulations**

**2698. Ms. Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the new draft guidelines align with global trends in higher education, particularly regarding the inclusion of non-academic professionals in vice-chancellor roles;

(b) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has conducted comprehensive consultations with all stakeholders, including State Governments and academic institutions, to assess the impact of the draft regulations on the autonomy and functioning of State Universities and if so, the outcomes of these consultations; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to address the concerns of State Governments and educational bodies regarding the potential erosion of federal principles due to the new UGC draft regulations?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The National Education Policy 2020 provides that all leadership positions and Heads of institutions will be offered to persons with high academic qualifications and demonstrated administrative and leadership capabilities along with abilities to manage complex situations. Leaders of a Higher Education Institution (HEI) will demonstrate strong alignment to Constitutional values and the overall vision of the institution, along with attributes such as a strong social commitment, belief in teamwork, pluralism, ability to work with diverse people, and a positive outlook.

The draft University Grants Commission (UGC) (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations 2025 have been developed with a view to support the vision of transforming higher education in India to meet global standards. Prioritizing research in higher education by introducing four-year undergraduate programmes, research

project in undergraduate programmes, strengthening research component in postgraduate programmes, research internships, etc., are all aimed at ensuring higher education in the country aligns with global trends. It also proposes that only the most distinguished individuals with exceptional academic, research, and administrative credentials are eligible for the role of Vice Chancellor. Expanding the pool of potential candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor will enhance academic standards by bringing in diverse expertise, leadership excellence, and a broader vision for higher education.

The Search-cum-Selection Committee for appointment of Vice Chancellor consists of eminent experts, including former Vice-Chancellors and Directors of leading institutions, ensuring only the most qualified individuals are shortlisted.

The selection process remains merit-driven, with candidates assessed on their scholarly achievements, leadership qualities, administrative capabilities, and contributions to higher education reform.

(b): As part of consultation process, the UGC uploaded the draft UGC Regulations 2025 in the public domain on 06.01.2025 for feedbacks, suggestions and wider consultations. UGC had received more than 15,000 suggestions, so far. These feedbacks are at various stages of analyses and deliberations.

(c): The UGC Draft Regulations 2025 strongly uphold and reinforce India's federal structure by balancing national standards and state autonomy in higher education. These Regulations are designed to ensure academic excellence while respecting the diverse educational frameworks of different states. These regulations propose a 3 member Search-cum-selection Committee for appointment of Vice-Chancellor. These members are to be nominated by impartial Statutory Bodies to ensure transparency in selection process as well as to ensure autonomy of the University. The responses to draft Regulations are at various stages of analysis and deliberations, as already stated above.

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