

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3710
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

Concerns Over NIRF Ranking

3710. Ms Sayani Ghosh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the concerns raised over the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to reduce the weightage of peer perception in the NIRF rankings or replacing it with more objective metrics given its subjectivity and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken to address the allegations of regional bias in the NIRF rankings, which seem to favour metropolitan institutions over sub-urban and State-run Higher Education Institutions (HEIs);
- (d) the manner in which the Government addresses concerns that private HEIs with larger advertising budgets and outreach capabilities gain an unfair advantage in peer perception rankings; and
- (e) the reason behind the NIRF framework not include direct assessments of teaching quality, such as classroom observations, student evaluations, and alumni feedback to ensure a more comprehensive evaluation of HEIs?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): To promote healthy competition among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 by the Government of India for the annual ranking (called India Rankings) of these HEIs. The methodology of India Rankings is based on five broad parameters, i.e. “Teaching, Learning and Resources,” “Research and Professional Practices,” “Graduation Outcomes,” “Outreach and Inclusivity,” and “Peer Perception”.

NIRF invites feedback/inputs from the participating institutions and representatives of different disciplines/categories. The rankings methodology has evolved and new disciplines/categories have also been introduced over the years, on the basis of the aforesaid feedback and inputs. The disciplines/categories under NIRF ranking have increased from 4 in 2016 to 16 in 2024.

NIRF utilizes several factors including Peer Perception survey for Ranking of Institutions. NIRF has 10 per cent weightage for peer perception whereas weightage of 33 to 45 per cent is used by international agencies for rankings. In the Peer Perception survey the respondents provide details of the institutions at the national level as well as at the regional levels.

The Peer Perception survey is conducted over a large category of employers, professionals from reputed organizations and academics to ascertain their preference for graduates of different institutions.

The NIRF framework takes into account, complex and multi-layered structure of higher education in India with the diversity of disciplines, quality of teaching faculty, university examinations, placements, higher studies, outreach and inclusivity, financial support etc.

NIRF uses quantitative ranking parameters to rank institutions based on the data submitted by institutions.
