

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 988
ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2025

SELECTION PROCESS FOR VCs

**988. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:
SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the rationale for proposing changes in the draft UGC Regulations, 2025, that divest State Governments of their role in the selection process for Vice Chancellors (VCs);
- (b) the Government's response to concerns raised by various State Governments including Tamil Nadu and Kerala, about draft regulations violating federal principles and undermining State autonomy in higher education;
- (c) whether the Government has considered the implications of empowering Chancellors (typically Governors) with unilateral authority in the selection of VCs and potential for conflicts between State Governments and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the justification for allowing non-academics with background in public administration, public policy or industry to be eligible for the VC's role and the safeguards in place to ensure that such appointments are based on merit and not political affiliations; and
- (e) whether the Government intends to revise the draft regulations to ensure that these uphold constitutional federalism and foster autonomy in university governance and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommended many transformative reforms which need to be incorporated into the regulations, which was the key reason for revising the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018. The qualities envisioned in the NEP 2020 for leadership positions in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are persons with high academic qualifications and having

demonstrated administrative and leadership capabilities along with abilities to manage complex situations. Leaders of HEIs 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 same has been incorporated in the draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment & Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025 as eligibility criteria, among other things, for the appointment of Vice Chancellors.

UGC is empowered to make regulations for the promotion and co-ordination of University education and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities. UGC notifies regulations in the exercise of powers conferred under clause (e) of sub-section(I) of Section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956). The draft UGC Regulations, 2025 provide more autonomy and inclusive development of the State Universities. The draft regulations provide more power to universities in the selection process of teachers. The selection committees of universities will decide on the quality of research publications, the reputation of publishers, etc., based on the input from external experts, rather than the fixed numerical score known as Academic Performance Index (API). The eligibility criteria for appointment and promotion have been simplified and broadened in the draft regulations. It empowers State Governments to decide on the selection process of teachers in colleges falling under their purview.

Search cum Selection Committee proposed in these regulations has three members, out of which only one is to be nominated by the Chancellor and other two are to be nominated by independent statutory bodies such as UGC and apex body of the University.

These draft regulations have been placed in the public domain for feedback, suggestions and wide consultations. Various suggestions, comments and feedback have been received from different stakeholders. The feedback so received will be analysed by an Expert Committee for incorporating suitable suggestions in the regulations.
