

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2385
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2026

Review of PhD Programmes in Universities

2385. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has initiated a comprehensive review of Ph.D. programmes in Central, State and private universities, if so, the details thereof, including the key findings and the corrective actions taken/proposed to be taken by the Government;
- (b) the measures implemented by UGC to improve the quality, relevance and integrity of Ph.D. research, including supervision norms, coursework rigor, plagiarism controls and outcome-based evaluation aligned with national priorities;
- (c) the reasons for not revoking Ph.D. degrees obtained through fraudulent means and not initiating criminal proceedings and whether stricter enforcement is under consideration, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether UGC proposes a national recognition or incentive framework for Ph.D. research delivering measurable national benefits?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, which are applicable to all Universities established or incorporated under a Central Act, Provincial Act or State Act, Institutions Deemed to be Universities under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, and degree-granting autonomous colleges permitted to offer Ph.D. programmes.

As per the information received from the UGC, a Standing Committee was constituted by UGC on 20.04.2023 to suggest measures to control violations of UGC Regulations for award of Ph.D. Thereafter, an Expert Committee was also constituted to analyse the data of Ph.D. degrees awarded by the universities to extend help to the Standing Committee. This Expert Committee has been entrusted with the task of examining/evaluating the data provided by the Universities in respect of the Ph.D. degrees awarded by them and give its recommendations whether these Universities awarded the Ph.D. degrees in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the UGC Ph.D. Regulations 2009, 2016 and 2022. The Standing Committee, after considering the report of the Expert Committee, gives its recommendations, which is subsequently placed before the UGC Commission for consideration and approval.

UGC takes action against the Universities, who do not follow the UGC regulations. Till date, 92 Universities have been examined/ reviewed to see whether they have been maintaining data and awarding Ph.D. as per UGC Regulations, out of which 5 universities have been debarred from enrolling students in Ph.D. programme for the next 5 years. Ph.D programmes(s) offered by these universities, in the absence of UGC approval, shall not be treated as recognized/valid for the purpose of higher education and employment.