

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1648

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008

REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission has initiated a slew of measures to reform higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has urged the UGC to prepare an action plan and also to work out the modalities for drafting legislations to reform higher education;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the UGC thereon;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to make the implementation of UGC's recommendations on higher education reforms, mandatory for all the States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (f): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed a number of steps for reforms in higher education. This includes mitigation of quality gaps in universities and colleges, revamping of Academic Staff Colleges, strengthening of Inter-University Centres, establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cells in universities and colleges, academic reforms in universities and colleges, designing of model curriculum, identification of various modes of public-private participation to promote higher education, etc.

While the Universities are autonomous, the UGC is a statutory body created for the co-ordination and determination of standards in universities. The powers and functions of the UGC have been defined in the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.