

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5463

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

STANDARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh; Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa; Singh Shri Rakesh; Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvaraya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently proposed any academic reforms in the higher education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has also envisaged any scheme aimed at increasing the standard of higher education system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the schemes being implemented during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the details of the schemes which are still to be finalized and implemented?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has written to all universities to implement academic reforms including introduction of semester system, choice based credit system, curriculum development, reforms in admission procedures and reforms in examination and evaluation systems. UGC has also notified regulations specifying that qualifying National Eligibility Test (NET) or State-Level Eligibility Test (SLET) shall be the minimum eligibility criteria for appointment as Assistant Professor with exemption to those who have obtained a Ph.D degree in accordance with standards and rigour prescribed under regulations.

(c) & (d): UGC has formulated several schemes aimed at increasing the standards of higher education. These include the Scheme to strengthen basic science research in universities and colleges through grants provided for upgradation of research infrastructure, increase in rates of fellowship for Junior Research Fellowship and Senior Research Fellowship, Support to universities and colleges declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956, for their development and infrastructure improvement, Scheme for construction of women's hostels, new schemes offering post doctoral fellowships for further studies and research i.e. the Dr. D. S. Kothari Post- Doctoral fellowship and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Post-Doctoral Fellowship for research in sciences social sciences and humanities establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in universities and colleges, Scheme of grants to universities and colleges with potential for excellence and autonomous colleges.

(e): The Scheme for incentivising State Governments for establishment of new universities and colleges and expansion of higher educational institutions and the Scheme for one- time support to universities and colleges recognized under section 2(8) of the UGC Act but not declared fit to receive grants under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act are yet to be implemented.