

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2209

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

NEW GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

- (a) Whether the Government has formulated new guidelines for private higher educational institutions operating in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the guidelines are aimed at promoting openness and accountability in educational institutions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by University Grants Commission (UGC) for effective control over private universities in the States;
- (e) the details of the complaints received by UGC regarding these Universities; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The draft University Grants Commission (UGC) (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2010 has been prepared. The draft Regulations intend to promote openness and accountability through periodic inspections to oversee maintenance of norms and standards, adhering to internal quality assurance norms, mandatory accreditation and establishment of a disclosure based regime for the benefit of all stakeholders etc.

(d) "Education" being in the Concurrent List, both Parliament and State Legislatures are competent to enact legislations establishing Private Universities. Central Government or the UGC have very limited control on private Universities established through state Acts. Such Universities are automatically recognized under Section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956. However, the University Grants Commission makes periodic inspection and assessment of Private Universities through Expert Committees constituted by Chairman, UGC to verify that the Universities fulfill the minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc, as laid down from time to time by the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies.

(e) & (f): A total number of 13 complaints have been received by UGC during the current year against different private Universities. The complaints mostly pertain to offering courses through distance mode, opening of off- campus centres and non-refund of fees etc. These Universities have been directed to take rectification measures wherever UGC has completed the process of enquiry.