

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4199  
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012  
IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for improvement, restructuring, rationalisation and development of higher education system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d):Improvement of quality, restructuring, rationalisation and development of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation is proposed in the XII Plan aiming at improvement of quality of higher educational institutions. Quality of higher education in the country is also planned to be further improved through various legislative initiatives which include making the accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence, Colleges with Potential for Excellence, Special Assistance Programme, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences, Fellowship Programmes for Research students as well as orientation and refresher programmes for newly appointed and in-service teachers through its Academic Staff Colleges. The UGC has also taken up various measures for educational reforms, including introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and credit transfer. Improved pay package for teachers in universities and colleges has been announced by the Central Government in order to attract and retain talented persons in the teaching profession. It has also been decided to make National Eligibility Test (NET) / State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) compulsory for appointment as teachers at entry level in the universities and colleges, except for those who have obtained Ph.D. degree from universities following the norms prescribed by the UGC in its regulations regarding registration, course work and evaluation process.