

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1719
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012
STANDARD OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the standard of Indian Universities has been declining in comparison to other Asian Universities;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the names of Universities the standard of which has declined during the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government has looked into the reasons for this declining standard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to improve the standard of Indian Universities during the last three years?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): No, Sir. While there is no universally recognized international system of ranking of standards of higher educational institutions, many Indian higher educational institutions are comparable to the best institutions in the world and other Asian countries. The different ranking systems use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions and some of these parameters are not relevant for Indian higher educational institutions and such comparisons cannot constitute the basis of benchmarking of Indian higher educational institutions.

(e): A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in XI Plan aiming at improvement of quality of higher educational institutions. During the Plan period, a large number of new institutions – Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes for Science Education & Research, Schools of Planning & Architecture – have been established.

University Grants Commission (UGC), has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at improvement of quality of education in Indian Universities and has taken up various measures for educational reforms, such as introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) etc, which have been implemented by most of the Central universities. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standard of teaching in Indian Universities.

In order to reform higher education, legislative proposals for prohibiting unfair practices in higher educational institutions; for making accreditation mandatory and for regulating the entry and operations of foreign educational institutions, have been introduced in Parliament. Another legislation, to create an overarching body to regulate higher education holistically, keeping in mind the increasingly converging nature of disciplines and to explore the opportunities of knowledge creation that lie at the intersections of existing disciplines, has been introduced in Parliament.