

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:161  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012  
RANKING OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES  
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Shekhar Shri Neeraj

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that as per a study, none of the Indian Universities figure in the top two hundred Universities of the world;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has conducted any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome of the said survey including the methodology adopted by them in this regard; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the standard of higher education in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House .

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 161 FOR 5.12.2012 ASKED BY SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL AND SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING RANKING OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

(a): Yes, Sir. As per the world rankings for 2012-13, assigned by the Times Higher Education, one of the international ranking agencies, no Indian University figures in the top 200 Universities in the world.

(b): There are several entities undertaking ranking of world universities as per their own criteria. Some of the better known global systems of rankings are the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) system, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

These different international ranking systems use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions. These criteria are neither universally accepted nor recognized and are therefore sometimes subjected to criticism in academic circles. Some of these parameters may not be relevant for Indian higher educational institutions and therefore, these rankings cannot constitute the basis for benchmarking of Indian institutions.

Though some institutions of the country like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) etc. are comparable in quality and standards to any highly ranked university in the world, they are not able to figure in top ranked institutions due to their focus on limited programmes and disciplines.

(c) & (d): National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has initiated a project to develop guidelines and parameters for ranking of higher educational institutions. The project has not yet been finalized.

NAAC is carrying out the task of assessment and accreditation of Universities and Colleges. At present, the process of assessment and accreditation is voluntary. So far, the NAAC has accredited 172 universities with the following grade:

| Grade category                      | A  | B  | C |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|---|
| No. of Universities<br>universities | 67 | 99 | 6 |

NAAC has also accredited 4797 colleges in different states with the following grade:

|                 |     |      |     |
|-----------------|-----|------|-----|
| Grade category  | A   | B    | C   |
| No. of colleges | 537 | 3292 | 968 |

(e): Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. The Government is continuously striving to improve the quality of higher education in the country by legislative initiatives as well as schemes and programmes. The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, which aims to make accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions in order to ensure independent quality assurance mechanism, has been introduced in Parliament on 3rd May, 2010.

To facilitate dedicated Universities as hubs for research ecosystems to develop as clusters of education, research and innovation and to promote innovation in learning and design, development and delivery of solutions, the Universities for Research and Innovation Bill, 2012 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21st May, 2012. Cluster innovation Centres and Design Innovation Centers have been initiated in the University system to promote interdisciplinary research and innovation.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it implements various schemes for providing support to higher education institutions for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology (ASIST), "Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences" (ASIHSS), Basic Scientific Research (BSR) etc. The Department of Science and Technology, through its programme "Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence" (PURSE), Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST) etc. provides support to universities essentially for research man-power cost, augmentation of equipment and computational facilities, research consumables and maintenance of the facilities etc.