

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1479

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013

DECLINE IN QUALITY AND STANDARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether the quality and standard of higher educational institutions have declined over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to take any concrete steps to improve the quality and standard of education in these institutions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b):There has been an impression in certain quarters that quality and standards of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) are going down. However, quality being a very relative and subjective attribute, it is very difficult to arrive at any definite conclusion as to whether quality is declining or not. Some of the factors which might have contributed to the impression that standards are declining, include the fact that an exponential increase in the number of institutions in the last decade, both in the public and private sector, has taken place. Some of them may have taken time to put quality human and physical infrastructure in place. An unprecedented number of new central institutions were also created in the 11th plan period by the Central Government.

The accreditation process is one of the most reliable and objective methods of assessment of quality of an HEI. But in the absence of a mandatory accreditation framework, many institutions are not applying for and obtaining accreditation.

(c) & (d):The Government has taken concrete steps to ensure that the independent quality assurance framework is made mandatory through compulsory assessment and accreditation. The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, which provides for making accreditation mandatory in order to ensure independent credible quality assurance mechanism for higher educational institutions, has been introduced in Parliament on 3rd May, 2010. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also notified the Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions Regulations, 2012 which makes it mandatory for higher educational institutions to get themselves assessed and accredited. The UGC (Promotion & Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012 have been approved by the UGC in order to raise standard of higher education in Indian universities by collaborating with the best institutions in the world.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also approved the Regulations to make accreditation mandatory for technical educational institutions.