

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1562

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013

REVIEW OF UNIVERSITIES

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

- (a) whether the Government/University Grants Commission (UGC) conducts any periodical review of the universities regarding their standard of education, research and innovation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the deficiencies noticed in such reviews, university-wise;
- (c) the schemes run by the Government/ UGC for improving the quality/standard of higher education imparted by the universities; and
- (d) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it conducts periodical review of the functioning of the Deemed-to-be-Universities and Private Universities in the country. The UGC, in 2009, conducted a comprehensive review of 124 deemed-to-be-universities with the help of Expert Committees. The UGC Expert Committees evaluated the Deemed-to-be-Universities on the parameters of infrastructure, faculty, accreditation, research, etc. Some of the Deemed-to-be-Universities were found deficient on some aspects. The reports of the Expert Committees are available at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/subpage/UGC-Expert-Committee-Reports-DU.aspx>. UGC also conducts a comprehensive review of each State University before it is included in Section 2(f) and Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956.

The Government of India had constituted a Review Committee in 2009 to review the functioning of the existing Deemed-to-be-Universities. The Review Committee categorized 38 Deemed-to-be-Universities in category A (fit to continue), 44 in category B (deficient in some aspects and could rectify those deficiencies within a time frame of three years) and 44 in category C (unfit to continue). The 44 Institutions found unfit have filed cases in Supreme Court and the matter is presently sub-judice.

Private Universities are regulated by the UGC as per provisions contained in the UGC (Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities), Regulations, 2003. These private universities are inspected by the UGC with the help of concerned Statutory Council(s). Out of the 138 State Private Universities, the UGC Expert Committees have already visited 53 Private Universities. The reports of UGC visiting Committees are available at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/privatuniversity.aspx>.

Apart from the above reviews, the UGC and the Ministry also review the progress made by Central Universities from time to time.

(c) & (d): Quality enhancement and improvement in standards of higher education is an ongoing process. Measures have been taken by the Government for introduction of the semester system, regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) etc. The UGC has 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 standards of teaching in Indian Universities. In order to improve quality of teachers and teaching, National Eligibility Test (NET) and State Level Eligibility test (SLET) have been made compulsory requirements, with the only exception being those who have completed Ph.D in accordance with UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulations 2009. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body established by the UGC, accredits universities and colleges on various parameters of quality. The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) accredits programmes offered by the technical institutions. The UGC has issued regulations making accreditation mandatory for higher educational institutions. The UGC has launched several schemes to improve the standards of education in Universities and colleges. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided to eligible universities and colleges for creation and upgradation of infrastructural facilities, including Libraries, Laboratories and Hostels and for strengthening of teaching and research.