

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1583

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013

EMPLOYABILITY OF GRADUATES

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

- (a) whether various universities in the country have not kept abreast with the rapid changes that have taken place in the world around;
- (b) if so, the details therefor;
- (c) whether the higher educational institutions are facing the charge of churning out unemployable graduates and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that many universities are producing graduates in subjects that the job market no longer requires;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a):No, Madam. Various universities in the country and regulatory bodies like the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are striving hard to keep abreast with the rapid changes taking place in the world.

(b):In order to ensure that universities interact with their counterparts and collaborate with the best of universities abroad, UGC has issued the Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions Regulations, 2012, which provides for collaboration in teaching, learning and research. The AICTE has issued such Regulations in 2005. The universities all over the country have launched various initiatives which include institutionalised industry-academia-research laboratory interface. The UGC has been implementing "Career Oriented Courses" programmes since 2003-04. It has recently notified Bachelor in Vocational Education (B.Voc) as a graduate degree. The UGC has implemented various academic reforms, which include Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), Semester system and continuous updation of curriculum and syllabi. The National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) provides for common principles and guidelines for a nationally recognized qualification system, covering schools, vocational education institutes and institutes of higher education with qualifications ranging from secondary to doctorate level, in order to address the issue of employability.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has reported that it updates curriculum with the active participation of industry through the Industry Institute partnership programme. The All India Board for Undergraduate education and Post Graduate education studies have representatives of the industry and have recently completed the model curriculum in various disciplines that enlists the best practices of the curriculum. To enhance the employability of engineering students, AICTE implements various schemes such as Finishing Schools for students, Innovation Programme schemes etc.

(c) & (d):As per a study reportedly conducted by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) & McKinsey and reported in media, only 25% of engineers and 15% of graduates are readily employable in back office jobs. However, the study does not categorically establish any concrete percentage of graduates employable across industries and various sectors. Moreover the term "readily employable" has serious implications with regard to general educational courses and programmes, which focus more on comprehensive development of students' personalities alongside exposing them to various theoretical and practical aspects of a particular discipline. The Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes offered by different Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), polytechnics and vocational schools provide job specific skills. While employability is certainly one of the key objectives of higher education, it cannot be the sole objective as enshrined in the National Education Policy of 1986.

(e) & (f): Yes, Madam. A survey has been conducted by UGC on the employability of graduates in the country in connection with the Career Oriented Courses scheme being implemented by UGC. The objective of the scheme is to ensure that the graduates who pass out after completing these courses have knowledge, skills and aptitude for gainful employment in the wage sector in general and self employment in particular. The survey covered the number of courses conducted, enrolment in these courses, industrial training and employment placements in the colleges. During the XI Plan, under the scheme, grants amounting to Rs. 212.94 crores were sanctioned. 2172 colleges and 30 universities have benefitted under the scheme. A total of 3995 students were admitted/trained under the scheme.