

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6831

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013

UNIFORM HIGHER EDUCATION

Bauri Smt. Susmita;Chaudhary Shri Arvind Kumar;Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Putul Kumari Smt. ;Singh Sarika

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring uniformity in higher education being imparted in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of universities in the country recognized by the Union Government at present;
- (d) whether a uniform education policy has been formulated for all the said Central Universities and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether certain universities are running some courses as Diploma as well as Degree courses simultaneously and if so, whether the Union Government has accorded recognition to such courses; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued the Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of the First Degree through Formal Education) Regulations, 2003 and the Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of the Master's Degree through Formal Education Regulations, 2003, that lay down standards of instructions and ensure uniformity in terms of admission, working days, syllabus, examination and evaluation, physical facilities, award of degrees etc. to be followed in all universities in the country. The UGC has also notified the list of degrees and only such degrees as specified can be awarded by universities. The UGC has also notified regulations on minimum qualifications and pay scales for teachers, which are uniformly applicable to all universities.

(c): No prior recognition of either the UGC or the Central Government is required for universities if they are set up through Acts of Parliament or State Legislatures. As per information furnished by the UGC, the total number of universities in the country as on 02.05.2013 is as under:

Central Universities	44	
State Universities		300
Private Universities		154
Deemed to be Universities	129	
Total	627	

(d): The UGC regulations are uniformly applicable to all the universities including the Central Universities.

(e & f): Universities are autonomous in nature and have the full freedom to take any administrative or academic decision including the courses that are to be offered to students. The Central Government has no role to play in such matters, and hence, such data is not maintained centrally. The UGC only lays down standards for maintaining quality in higher education but it does not specify diploma programmes nor has it laid down regulations for diploma level programmes. A University may offer degrees as well as diploma programmes simultaneously.