

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1091
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013
AUTONOMY OF UGC
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) is an autonomous body to regulate higher education in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether under Section 20 of the (UGC) Act, the regulator is bound to follow the Ministry's decision;
- (c) if so, whether in the case of dispute, Ministry's view will prevail;
- (d) if so, the kind of autonomy being enjoyed by UGC;
- (e) whether his Ministry is working on a higher education regulators to further erode the autonomy of UGC; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that UGC autonomy is not eroded further?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been established under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 for the co-ordination and determination of standards in universities. The UGC has the autonomy to discharge its functions under the Act subject to Section 20(1) which stipulates that in the discharge of its functions, the UGC shall be guided by such directions, on questions of policy relating to national purposes, as may be given to it by the Central Government. Section 20(2) of the Act stipulates that if any dispute arises between the Central Government and the Commission as to whether a question is or is not a question of policy relating to national purposes, the decision of the Central Government shall be final. The powers and functions of the UGC are elaborated in Chapter III and IV of the Act.
- (e): The Government has introduced the Higher Education and Research Bill, 2011, in Parliament, which seeks to create a National Council for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) , to replace the UGC.
- (f): The UGC is completely autonomous in its functioning except when Section 20 of the UGC Act, 1956 is invoked by the Central Government to issue directions pertaining to national policy.