

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2103  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013  
QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked the Vice-Chancellors of the universities to improve the quality of education and infrastructure facilities to meet the challenges in higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to provide quality education in universities; and
- (c) whether any blueprint has been made for this purpose and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam. The Central Government is asking all the Central Universities to improve the quality of education. Adequate grants are given to all the Central Universities to ensure adequate infrastructure. The quality of education in State Universities is ensured by the University Grants Commission (UGC) through its regulations, schemes and grants. The State Universities are also given grants by the UGC for improving their infrastructure.

The functioning of Central Universities has been reviewed from time to time in the Conference of Vice Chancellors and more recently, in February, 2013 by the President of India and in July, 2013 by the Human Resource Development Minister. The issues discussed covered areas such as the improvement of the quality of education, the filling up of the vacant teaching posts, faculty development, collaboration with industry and research laboratories, promoting innovation, use of technology in teaching learning process, mandatory accreditation, strengthening autonomy etc.

(b) & (c): Improvement in the performance of Central Universities is an on-going process. The Government has enhanced the pay scale and improved the promotional avenues to teachers of the Central Universities to attract young talent into the teaching profession. The schemes and programmes introduced by the UGC for the improvement of quality in the Universities include; the introduction of a Semester System, the periodic updation of curriculum, the introduction of a choice-based credit system, an increase in the number of Ph.D. and post-doctoral scholarships and enhancement in amount of scholarship, the prescription of minimum qualification for the appointment of teachers and other academic staff, the introduction of mandatory assessment and accreditation, the establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Cell, the Introduction of Faculty Recharge programme to augment research and teaching resources, liberal financial support under the schemes of Norm Based Funding and University with Potential for Excellence and Collaboration with Foreign Educational Institutions. The UGC lays down, from time to time, regulations to ensure minimum standards of teaching and learning in private universities, public universities and deemed to be universities.