GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2335
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
RESEARCH WORK IN UNIVERSITIES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of facilities for research and development work in universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is true that only one per cent of students were enrolled for research programme in 2011-12 against 86 per cent who received graduation degree and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to encourage students to undertake research and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote research work in universities?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The augmentation of research and development infrastructure is an ongoing endeavour. Rapid changes in scientific and technical fields, the information technology revolution and the process of globalization are all throwing up challenges that require continuous upgradation of research facilities. Different universities are differently endowed with such infrastructure. While central universities are receiving adequate grants for research infrastructure, some state universities are facing shortages on this count.

(c) Yes, Madam. As reported in the Annual Report of the UGC for the year 2011-12, only 1% of students in Higher Education sector were enrolled for research programmes in 2011-12. The level-wise enrolment figures for students in University Teaching Departments/University colleges & Affiliated colleges, as per the report of the UGC, are as under :-

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S.No. Level  University  Affiliated Total (% to Grand Total)
   Departments /  Colleges
   University Colleges



1. Graduate  853109   15602420         17455529 (85.87)
2. Post-Graduate 693864   1798608   2492472  (12.26)
3. Research  127780   33092   160872    (0.79)
4. Diploma/  132620   85985   218605    (1.08)
 Certificate
 Grand Total 2807373   17520105         20327478  (100.00)
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(d) & (e): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been providing financial assistance under its Special Assistance Programme (SAP) to University Departments to put in place facilities to accelerate research in the country. This funding is able to only partly meet the requirements for research and development work. The UGC is continually taking steps to encourage students to undertake research work. It has started the following schemes for promoting research work in universities, namely: infrastructure grants to Centre of Advance of Study (CAS)/ Departmental Special Assistance (DSA)/ Departmental Research Support (DRS/Non-SAP Departments; Infrastructure grants to College with Potential for Excellence/Autonomous Colleges; Infrastructure to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Accredited Colleges; Networking Resources Centre; Operation Faculty Recharge; One Time Grant of Faculty; Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship; Research Fellowship in Sciences for Meritorious Students; UGC-BSR (Basic Scientific Research) Faculty Fellowship Scheme; Start- up-Grant for Newly Recruited Faculty etc. In addition, the UGC is providing fellowships to those candidates who have qualified the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET)/UGC-CSIR NET.

The Department of Science and Technology, through its programme "Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence" (PURSE), Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST) etc. provides support to universities essentially for research man-power cost, the augmentation of equipment and computational facilities, research consumables and maintenance of the facilities etc.

The Central Government has recently sanctioned the Rashtriya Uchattar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in which a special emphasis is laid on research and innovation.