

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3331

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

PATTERN OF NET

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

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has received any complaints from language scholars in the country regarding change in the pattern of the National Eligibility Test (NET);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the UGC on such complaints;

(c) whether after changing the pattern of the NET, evaluation of the competence of students in the faculty of language has become very difficult after the descriptive paper was changed to objective type and if so, the reasons for changing the earlier pattern; and

(d) whether the UGC proposes to return to the old system of having at least one descriptive question paper related to the subject and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The University Grants Commission(UGC) has reported that some academics have raised their concern regarding the evaluation of writing skills in the Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) format of the National Eligibility Test (NET) Examination, particularly in case of language and literature subjects. The UGC in its 491st meeting held on 21st January, 2013,has constituted a 'UGC-NET Review Committee' for carrying out a comprehensive review of the various pedagogic, academic, technical and administrative issues related to the NET.

(c) & (d): The UGC, its 482nd meeting held on 22-12-2011 deliberated in detail the issues pertaining to objectivity in the marking of Paper-III, transparency, reducing the inter and intra-examiner variability in the marking of Paper-III, delays in the declaration of NET results, recommendations of the NET moderation Committees to switch over Paper-III from a descriptive to an objective type on the pattern of the CSIR NET examination, wherein all the three papers are of objective type, and decided that Paper-III be converted into an objective type from the ensuing examination scheduled in June, 2012.

Nonetheless the 'UGC-NET Review Committee' referred to above may consider the suitability of returning to a descriptive examination as part of its comprehensive review.