

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3468

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RANKING OF IITS

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

- (a) the details of global ranking of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in comparison to foreign institutes;
- (b) whether according to a report of the IIT Ranking Committee, the IITs are weak, almost nowhere on internationalization as per the criterion of the ranking agencies and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the students, teachers and experts have expressed concern over this ranking position and urged the Government to find new ways for improvements and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give a special focus to improve the global ranking of IITs?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): There are different International University ranking agencies engaged in the Ranking of Universities worldwide. The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World Ranking, Times Higher Education Ranking (THER), etc, are widely recognised International University Rankings. The variation in rankings, however, is primarily due to the different ranking agencies using different indicators and assigning different weightages for each indicator. As per the information available on the website, the rankings of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) by THER during 2011-12 and 2012-13 and QS in 2011 and 2012 are shown in the Table below:

Institute	Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)		Times Higher Education	
	World Ranking		Ranking (THER)	
	2011	2012	2011-12	2012-13
IIT-Bombay	225	227	301-350	251-275
IIT-Delhi	218	212	#	#
IIT-Kanpur	306	278	#	#
IIT-Kharagpur	341	349	#	226-250
IIT-Madras	281	312	#	#
IIT-Roorkee	#	#	#	351-400
IIT-Guwahati	#	#	#	#

# Other IITs having ranked below 400, do not appear on the THER website. # IIT-Roorkee and IIT-Guwahati did not figure in the ranking on the QS website.

(c) & (d): The Government has addressed the issue of rankings seriously and has organized workshops in coordination with the THER and the QS ranking agencies for informing heads of academic institutions about the issues involved in the ranking process. Based on these discussions, the following issues have emerged enabling a better understanding of the ranking methodology.

(i) The IITs are primarily science and technology oriented institutions. The typical World and Asia Rankings are meant for universities and consider items like arts, medicine, social sciences, etc. In terms of rankings related to engineering and technology, the IITs are ranked between 30 and 100 and are therefore within the top 100 institutions.

(ii) The five / six older IITs clubbed together form the size of a typically large U.S. / U.K. university. There are rankings which put all the IITs together and compare them to the universities of similar size. In this count, IITs together come within the top 20, if not in the top 10, on some of the items, like publications (Rank 2).

(iii) In most of the widely publicized rankings, like QS and THER, a large percentage (40% to 60%) is based on surveys and not on hard data like graduates, publications, citations, etc.

(iv) There is a 15% weightage on internationalisation where the IITs score low as they have low presence of international faculty and students. On the other hand the IITs have very strong international research collaborations with industry which is not counted.

(v) The IITs have a very good track record in international terms when it comes to research publications / citations and are rated very high on this count. But this does not count for more than 30% weightage.

(vi) The IITs are also affected on faculty : student ratio as some of the agencies count research staff as faculty. Since, as of now, IITs do not have a large non-faculty research staff with PhDs, they get adversely affected by such calculations. This also accounts for about 10% to 15% weightage in some cases.

(vii) The computation of citations is fairly disparate for different agencies and they are themselves refining and modifying the same from time to time.

(viii) Most of the agencies do not consider important areas of contribution of the IITs like the achievements of alumni (top 10 in the world), impact on national development goals, entrepreneurship generation, etc. where the IITs have excelled compared to others in the world.

(ix) In some cases, the complete data is not taken (eg, industry income set to 0 in a recent survey for one IIT), which seriously affect the rank.