

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3484  
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014  
PARAMETER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION  
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Times Higher Education has agreed to draw up an India specific indicator that would act as a parameter for global education stakeholders and international students to judge Indian educational institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that rankings have assumed significance as India is attempting to integrate with the global education market; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): The Government has requested the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the Central Universities to co- ordinate with certain ranking agencies to develop India specific parameters.
- (c) & (d): The variation in rankings is primarily due to different ranking agencies using different indicators and assigning different weightages for each indicator. The Government has addressed the issue of ranking seriously and has organized Workshops in co- ordination 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 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 the 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 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) IITs are also affected on faculty: student ratio as some of the agencies count research staff as faculty. Since, as of now, the 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 their criteria from time to time.
  - (viii) Most of the agencies do not consider important areas of contribution of the IITs like 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 available or considered (eg, industry income set to 0 in a recent survey for one IIT), which seriously affects the rank.