

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted in the country recently to evaluate the quality of higher education being imparted;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the quality and standard of higher education have declined over the years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to issue guidelines to the States for improving the standard of higher education in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the total assistance provided for upgradation of higher education during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the quality of higher education to bring it at par with global standards?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): No survey specifically on quality of higher education has been conducted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). However, the MHRD has been conducting the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since August, 2011, which inter-alia captures data on quantitative aspects of higher education.

(b): The significant outcome of the AISHE survey has been that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in the country has increased to 20.4% for the year 2011-2012.

(c) & (d): Quality being a relative and subjective attribute, it is difficult to arrive at any definite conclusion as to whether quality has declined or not. Some of the factors which might have contributed to the impression that standards are declining, include the fact that an exponential increase in the number of institutions in the last decade, both in the public and private sector, has taken place. Some of them may have taken time to put quality human and physical infrastructure in place.

(e): Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), launched in October, 2013, the overall quality of existing State higher educational institutions is sought to be improved by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework. Certain academic, administrative and governance reforms are a precondition for receiving funding under RUSA. All funding under RUSA is norm based and outcome dependent. Details of assistance provided to the States/Union Territories under RUSA are at annexure.

(f) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken various measures for educational reforms, such as the introduction of a semester system, the regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS), etc. The UGC has also issued Regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standard of teaching in Indian Universities. The UGC has also issued the Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions, Regulations, 2012 whereby all eligible higher Educational institutions are required to get themselves accredited.

The UGC also implements various schemes aimed at improving the quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology (ASIST), "Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences" (ASIHSS), Basic Scientific Research (BSR) etc. 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 the Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST) etc. provides support to the universities essentially for research, staffing costs, augmentation of equipment and computational facilities, research consumables and maintenance of the facilities etc.