

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:385

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015

GRADING SYSTEM

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently convened a meeting with the State Education Ministers and if so, the details of issues discussed and decision taken therein;
- (b) whether the universities have been asked to follow semester system in curriculum and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Universities Grants Commission's mandate of introduction of grading system from 2015-16 and its directions to universities to standardize their examinations and follow semester pattern in curriculum had also figured in the said meeting and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide wider options for students to learn and do research for holistic development?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education convened a meeting of all State Education Ministers looking after Higher/Technical Education, on 6th January 2015 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, to discuss adoption of the Credit Framework for Skills and the Choice Based Credit System in Colleges and State Public Universities. The recently approved regulations of the National Council of Teacher Education for improving the quality of B. Ed. Courses were also discussed during the meeting. The details of the issues discussed and decision taken during the meeting are at http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Press_Release_06-01-2015.pdf.

(b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it has been constantly persuading the universities to introduce academic reforms like introduction of semester system, choice based credit system, grading etc. with a view to bringing about qualitative improvement in higher education in the country.

(c): Yes, Madam. All State Ministers of Higher / Technical Education endorsed the Credit Framework for Skills and the Choice Based Credit System. The suggestion to set up a Grievance Cell in the University Grants Commission addressing challenges emanating from its implementation was accepted. Accordingly, a Cell has been set up by the UGC. Details are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/6685669_English.pdf.

(d): The Government has notified the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) on 27th December, 2013 to enable a person to acquire desired competency levels, transit to the job market and at an opportune time, return for acquiring additional skills to further upgrade their competencies and ensure holistic development. The UGC is implementing, within this framework, two schemes namely "Community Colleges" and "B.Voc degree programme" which offer employment oriented skill based vocational courses wherein an industry partner is essentially associated for curriculum development, delivery of courses and assessment of learners. To give further push to skill based vocations, a scheme of "Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhaya KAUSHAL Kendra" has also been approved by the Commission.

Moreover, the UGC has also been providing financial assistance to students for promotion of research under various schemes, namely: Junior Research Fellowship (JRF); JRF for Indian Nationals; Rajiv Gandhi Indian Fellowship for SC/ST ; Post-Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST; Post Graduate Fellowship for SC/ST students in professional courses; Post Doctoral Fellowship for Women; P.G. Scholarship for M.E./M.Tech/M.Pharma; Post Graduate Scholarship schemes for single girl child; Post-Graduate Merit Scholarship for university Rank Holders at undergraduation level; Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students; Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship; Research Fellowship in Science for Meritorious Students; etc.

Details of these schemes are available at <http://www.ugc.ac.in>.