

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1478

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

PROPOSALS FOR SETTING UP OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

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

(a) the criteria/norms prescribed by the Government for setting up of a central university;

(b) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from the State Governments and public representatives for setting up of central universities in the their States; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

**Answer**

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

(a) Madam, in order to increase access and improve the quality of higher education in the country and also to remove the regional imbalances in higher education sector, the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) approved by the National Development Council (NDC) envisaged setting up of one Central University each in States which did not have any Central University till then. Accordingly, 16 Central Universities were established by the Central Universities Act, 2009 in different un-served States.

(b) & (c) Several requests are being received by the Central Government from Public Representatives etc. for setting up of Central Universities. However, in the 12th Five Year Plan as approved by NDC the focus of the Government is on scaling up of capacity in existing institutions rather than increasing the number of institutions, with exception of new institutions needed to address critical regional and social gaps. Besides, the Central Government has launched the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) on cost sharing basis to assist States to open new institutions, consolidate old ones and take appropriate steps to ensure quality in higher education.