

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1571  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015  
STUDENTS IN PG COURSES  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of those students who obtain graduation degrees in the country, only 10-12 per cent students pursue Post- Graduation per year and even less than one per cent students out of those go for research work and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the efforts being made by the Government to improve the standard prevailing in higher education;
- (c) whether there is an acute shortage of teachers in the universities and research institutions of the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam. The UGC has reported that during 2013-14, only 12% and 1% of students in Higher Education sector were enrolled for postgraduation and research programmes, respectively. Enrolment in research is largely dependent on capacity of higher educational institutions to undertake research, student financial support, industry-academic interaction etc. which the Government and the UGC are continuously endeavouring to improve.

(b): The Ministry of Human Resource Development had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) namely Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which seeks to improve overall quality of existing State higher educational institutions by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework. RUSA is incentivizing State Governments to reform affiliating system, governance, and academic and examination system in State higher educational institutions. The total outlay for RUSA for the 12th Plan is Rs. 22,855 crores.

The UGC supports access & expansion by financing development of the Central Universities, recognition of new State Universities and Colleges, regulation of private and deemed to be universities and establishment of Community Colleges.

The UGC has notified several regulations with the objective of sustenance and improvement in the quality of higher education and for undertaking academic reforms. The regulations are on the following matters, namely: mandatory assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions; affiliation of colleges by universities; regulation of private and deemed to be universities; minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers; minimum standards for grant of first degree, Master's degree, M.Phil/Ph.D; grievance redressal; promotion of equity; curbing the menace of ragging etc. The regulations are available at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/UGC-Regulations.aspx>.

In order to encourage research and development in the country, UGC has laid out schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes under which financial assistance is provided to institutions of higher education as well as faculty members working therein to undertake quality research covering areas of knowledge across disciplines including revival & promotion of indigenous languages. These schemes are available at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/XII-Plan-Guidelines.aspx>. The UGC has established seven Inter University Centres in the country for providing common facilities, services and programmes for universities in general. The UGC, through collaboration with National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT), has undertaken e-content development of post graduate programmes called e-PG Pathashala.

(c): As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission(UGC), while 37.5% and 28.8% of teaching and non-teaching posts, respectively, were lying vacant as on 31st March,2014 in 39 Central Universities that receive maintenance and full salary grants from it, only 17.4% and 23.6% of teaching and non-teaching posts, respectively, were lying vacant as on 31st March,2014 in similarly funded 8 Deemed to be Universities.

(d): In order to mitigate the situation arising out of shortage of teachers, the Government has taken the following measures, namely: the age of superannuation for teachers in Central Educational Institutions has been enhanced to sixty five years; subject to availability of vacant positions and fitness, teachers are eligible for re-employment on contract basis beyond the age of 65 years upto the age of 70 years; conditions governing mobility of academic staff have been relaxed to enable retention of teachers in these institutions; UGC has also launched "Operation Faculty Recharge Programme" for augmenting the research and teaching resources of universities to tackle the faculty shortage in university system; Universities have been permitted to engage adjunct/guest/ contractual faculty to the

extent of 10% of the sanctioned strength; and Para 12.2 of the UGC 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 clearly mentions that all the sanctioned / approved posts in the university system shall be filled up on an urgent basis.

The Central Government and the UGC are continuously monitoring the progress of filling of vacancies of teachers in Central Universities. The issue relating to vacancy of teachers was also discussed prominently in the Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities on 4th & 5th February, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble President of India, in which Vice-Chancellors were exhorted to fill up the vacancies within six months of appointment of Visitor's nominee in cases where the Vice-Chancellors are in positions. It was also decided that the Executive Councils of Central Universities must recommend members for Search-cum-Selection Committees within 30 days. time-bound manner. As a follow up, the Ministry has written to all concerned to implement the decisions on priority and to furnish an Action Taken Report to Ministry.

Regarding other Universities, the UGC, on 12th November, 2014, has requested the Vice-Chancellors of all Universities and Deemed to be Universities to make serious efforts in ensuring that all vacant positions are filled up by the universities well before the start of the next academic session so that the selected persons are available for the instructional programs of the new academic session.