

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:895
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
RESEARCH WORK IN UNIVERSITIES
Bhaleram Shri Dharambir

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

- (a) whether the facilities and capacity to conduct research are insufficient in Indian Universities vis-a-vis foreign Universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any committee to create a framework for evaluation of research and rankings by promoting healthy competition among institutions, departments and individual researchers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the present implementation status; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote research work in Universities?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The augmentation of research and development infrastructure in the university system is an ongoing endeavour. Rapid changes in scientific and technical fields, the information technology revolution and the process of globalisation pose challenges that require continuous upgradation of research facilities. Different universities are differently endowed with such infrastructure.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. The Central Government has constituted an 18 member committee under the chairmanship of Prof. K.Vijay Raghavan to drive up the research performance of academic institutions in the country to improve ranking of Indian universities. The committee has had one meeting.

(e): The Government has taken various measures for the promotion and growth of research in the country. In scientific areas, these include the continuous increase in successive plan allocations for scientific departments, the setting up of new institutions for science education and research, the creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, the establishment of new and attractive fellowships, of strengthening of the infrastructure of Research & Development (R&D) in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, the recognition of R&D units and national awards for outstanding R&D for industries etc. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had set up a Task Force for rejuvenation of Basic Scientific Research in Indian Universities under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma, which has now been converted into an Empowered Committee to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been providing financial assistance under its Special Assistance Programme (SAP) to university departments to put in place facilities to accelerate research in the country. The UGC is continually taking steps to encourage students to undertake research work. It has started the following schemes for promoting research work in universities: Infrastructure grants to Centre of Advance of Study (CAS)/ Departmental Special Assistance (DSA)/ Departmental Research Support (DRS/Non-SAP Departments), Infrastructure grants to College with Potential for Excellence / Autonomous Colleges, Minor and Major Research Projects, Infrastructure to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Accredited Colleges, Networking Resources Centre, Dr. D.S Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Research Fellowship in Sciences for Meritorious Students, Basic Scientific Research etc. In addition, the UGC is providing fellowships to those candidates who have qualified the UGC National Eligibility Test (NET)/UGC-CSIR NET.

The MHRD is also funding research in the Social Sciences and Humanities through its various research councils, viz., the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI)

The new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) also focuses on research, innovation and quality improvement in the state universities.