

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:208
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
RANKING OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
Roy Prof. Saugata

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that as per a study, none of the Indian Universities figure in top two hundred Universities in the world;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any comprehensive measures to enhance the standard of Indian Universities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): There are several international ranking systems, which use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions with research being a major indicator. None of these systems are universally accepted and are always open to criticism. While figuring in the top 200 universities in the world may be a desirable objective, Government policy focuses not just on quality but on access, equity and inclusion as well.

(c) & (d): The Central Government is directly monitoring the standards of teaching, learning and research in Central Universities. For enhancing the standards of teaching, learning and research in State Universities and Colleges, the Central Government has launched Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which aims 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. It seeks to expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions in un-served and underserved areas, to achieve enrolment targets and to address critical regional and social gaps.

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.