

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:557

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014

QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the gross neglect of higher educational and deteriorating quality of students passing out due to the sub-standard level of education being imparted in existing higher education institutes across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide special funding to the States for the development of research and quality of education and if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;
- (d) the steps being taken for strengthening the quality of higher education such as adequate infrastructure facilities, research & development opportunities, competent faculties and practical training; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to bring about substantial changes in the quality of higher education and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. (DR.) RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA)

(a) & (b): Quality being a relative and subjective attribute, it is difficult to arrive at any definite conclusion as to whether quality has declined or not. Some of the factors which might have contributed to the impression that standards are declining, include the exponential increase in the number of institutions in the last decade, both in the public and private sector. Some of them may have taken time to put requisite levels of quality human and physical infrastructure in place.

(c): Yes, Madam. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), which was launched on 3rd October, 2013, States and public funded institutions established/maintained by them are eligible for funding under the component "Research, Innovation & Quality Improvement". An amount of Rs. 1,200 crore has been earmarked for the purpose during the 12th Plan. Some of the activities that are supported under the component include creating research hubs/parks, incubation centers, innovation hubs etc., procurement of high quality e-resources, upgradation of library and laboratory facilities, initiatives to attract top-rated international faculty, high quality researchers and students, scaling up of industry-academia partnership etc. Top of Form. Bottom of Form

(d) & (e): Under RUSA, the States are supported under components such as infrastructure grants to eligible universities and colleges, creation of new universities and colleges, both general and professional, upgradation of existing colleges to model degree colleges etc. Faculty programmes such as faculty recruitment support and faculty improvement are also provided.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken various measures towards improving quality of higher education 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. 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 All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also approved the Regulations to make accreditation mandatory for technical educational institutions. The UGC has also issued the "Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions Regulations, 2012" to provide a framework for Indian higher educational institutions an opportunity to enter into academic collaborations with quality foreign educational institutions.

In order to improve quality of teachers and teaching, National Eligibility Test (NET) and State Level Eligibility test (SLET) have been made compulsory requirements, only exception being those who have completed Ph.D in accordance with UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulations 2009. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body established by the UGC, accredits universities and colleges on various parameters of quality. The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) accredits programmes offered by the technical institutions. In order to attract best talents in the teaching profession, Government has notified a new pay structure for the University teachers w.e.f 01.01.2006.

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.