

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:608
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
DEGREES IN MASTER OF LAWS
Khuba Shri Bhagwanth;P. Shri Nagarajan

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to reduce the time period of degree in all subjects including Master of Laws and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Bar Council of India (BCI) has taken a decision to derecognize Delhi University's law courses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the reaction from the student's community and University's Faculty of Law in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): No, Madam. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has already specified, under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956, the list of degrees alongwith their duration which can be awarded by Universities/Deemed to be Universities and Institutions empowered to grant degrees by an Act of Parliament. The UGC Notification specifying the list of degrees is available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/1061840_specification-of-degrees-july-2014.pdf. The UGC has also clarified that only those Universities which have established the Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies, in accordance with UGC's Guidelines, issued on 18th January, 2013, can offer one year LLM Degree program. The UGC has further clarified that such Universities shall also have to ensure that they have the faculty, infrastructure, library, teleconferencing facilities, etc. as per the UGC's Guidelines.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. The Bar Council of India (BCI) had informed the University of Delhi that the three Law Centres functioning in the University have not applied to the BCI for extension of approval of affiliation beyond the academic year 2010-11 and students who were admitted in the Session 2011-12 onwards and passed out in the academic year 2013-14 are not eligible for enrollment as advocates.

(d): The University of Delhi has reported that some individuals including students and one faculty member have filed writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter. The University has further informed that the BCI has conducted an inspection of the three Law Centres under the Faculty of Law in October, 2014.