

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1628
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014
AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any system of autonomous colleges is introduced in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features along with the aims and objectives of autonomous status of certain colleges;
- (c) whether the Government has any record regarding the number of colleges that have been granted autonomous status so far; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) : Yes, Madam. The scheme of Autonomous Colleges is being implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to provide autonomy to select colleges.

(b) As per the latest XIth plan guidelines, available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/0722837_guidelines-autonomous-colleges.pdf, once a college attains the status of an Autonomous College, it is entitled for the following privileges: have freedom to determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi, restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs; prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government; evolve methods of assessment of students' performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results; use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity; promote healthy practices such as community service, extension activities, projects for the benefit of the society at large, neighbourhood programmes, etc.

The following criteria are considered for identification of institutions for grant of autonomy, namely: academic reputation and previous performance in university examinations and its academic/co-curricular/extension activities in the past; academic/extension achievements of the faculty; quality and merit in the selection of students and teachers, subject to statutory requirements in this regard; adequacy of infrastructure, for example, library, equipment, accommodation for academic activities, etc.; quality of institutional management; National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation of 'B' grade or above; financial resources provided by the management/state government for the development of the institution; responsiveness of administrative structure and motivation and involvement of faculty in the promotion of innovative reforms etc.

The University Grants Commission provides financial assistance to the tune of upto Rs. 15 lakhs for Undergraduate Colleges and Rs. 20 lakhs for PG and UG Colleges, eligible under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 for UGC funding, apart from its regular grants. This assistance is provided for meeting the additional expenses on the following heads, namely: Guest/visiting faculty; Orientation and re-training of teachers; Re-designing courses and development of teaching/learning material; Workshop and seminars; Examination reforms; Office equipment, teaching aids and laboratory equipment; Furniture for office, classrooms, library and laboratories; Library equipment, books/journals; Expenditure on meetings of the governing body and committees; Honorarium to Controller of Examinations

(full-time) not exceeding Rs. 8000/- p.m.; Accreditation (NAAC) fee; Renovation and repairs not leading to construction of a new building; & Extension Activities.

(c) & (d): As on date there are 487 autonomous colleges (affiliated to 93 universities) in 24 States /Union Territories in the country (list is available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/colleges/autonomous_colleges-list.pdf).