

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*498
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018

Higher Education

†*498. **SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:**

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

- (a) the existing mechanism in place in University Grants Commission (UGC) to maintain the standards in education, research and quality in higher education in private universities/colleges;
- (b) whether the Government/UGC proposes to review the present regulatory mechanism in the field of higher education;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government/UGC to deal with the emerging challenges in the field of higher education?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *498 FOR 02.04.2018 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT SHRI C MAHENDRAN REGARDING HIGHER EDUCATION**

(a): Private Universities are established by the Acts of the respective State Legislatures, therefore, they are regulated as per the provisions of their respective Act. In addition, Private Universities are also regulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC) through UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. These Regulations were notified by the UGC for safeguarding the interests of the student community with adequate emphasis on the quality of education and to avoid commercialization of higher education. In order to ascertain quality of education imparted by these Universities, UGC conducts periodic review of every Private University with the help of its Expert Committee consisting of eminent experts from the concerned fields and nominee from the Statutory Council(s) concerned. In case any deficiencies are found by the Committee, the University concerned is asked for rectification of the deficiencies.

(b) & (c): The Government has requested National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA) to constitute a working group to study the various Acts of Private Universities to find out the salient features of these Acts especially w.r.t autonomy provided to Private Universities, Monitoring / Regulating mechanism, etc. for these Private Universities. It has been also requested to look into the fee regulation being adopted by State Government w.r.t Private Universities. NIEPA has been further requested that the representative of UGC, AICTE & two legal experts may be included in the working group for the said study.

(d): In order to deal with the emerging challenges in the field of higher Education, UGC has taken the following initiatives:

- i. UGC (Categorization of Universities (Only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018 has been notified to provide autonomy to institutions of higher education as a way of promoting and institutionalizing excellence.
- ii. UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2017 have been notified to create a distinct category of Deemed to be Universities, called Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities, which would be regulated differently from other Deemed to be Universities so as to evolve into

Institutions of world class in reasonable time period. These Institutions shall be called as 'Institutions of Eminence'.

- iii. UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 have been recently notified in the month of June, 2017 keeping in view the urgent need of appropriate regulations for monitoring of higher education through the open and distance mode.
- iv. UGC has formulated the UGC (Conferment of Autonomous Status upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018 in terms of facilitating the colleges and making the process of granting autonomous status to a college more prompt. These Regulations have been implemented in order to facilitate the colleges to achieve further qualitative improvement leading towards academic excellence.
