

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1244
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2019

Higher Education and Research

†1244. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government continuously works to promote higher education and research in the country;
- (b) if so, the various courses being conducted to promote the youths of the country at present along with the details;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to conduct the National Eligibility Test (NET) examination only once a year;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the manner in which the said step would result in reducing the number of NET qualified students as well as cast a positive effect on research studies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The Government is continuously working to promote Higher Education and Research in the country. The Government is committed to improve the quality of education and it is a continuous ongoing process. Several initiatives are undertaken to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT), and Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education.

Further for promotion of innovation, cognitive thinking and improving the quality of Ph.D programmes, the Government has devised schemes in all the fields of education. The Ministry of Human Resource Development and its organisations like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are undertaking various research projects to promote higher education and research in the country viz. IMPRINT (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology) for technical research, IMPRESS (Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences) for social sciences research, SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic Research and Collaboration) for joint research with Foreign Universities and STARS (Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Fundamental Sciences) for research in fundamental sciences.

SPARC is a recent initiative of the Ministry to support Joint Research Projects through collaboration of top ranked Indian Institutions and globally ranked Foreign Institutions. It aims to support 600 research projects in two years, at an outlay of Rs. 418 crores. Under IMPRINT-I, 142 research projects with an outlay of Rs. 318.71 crores for 3 years have been accepted. Under IMPRINT-II, a total of 122 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 112 crores have been approved. Under the IMPRESS scheme 1500 research projects, at a total sanctioned cost of Rs. 414 crores, will be awarded for implementation upto 31.3.2021.

The UGC has also started three schemes, namely Community College, B.Voc Degree Programme, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay KAUSHAL Kendras in Universities and Colleges for imparting skill development based vocational courses offering Certificate/Diploma/Advance Diploma/B.Voc M.Voc and Research level programme with multiple exit and entry options enabling vertical mobility of the students.

An amount of Rs. 1.57 lakh crores has been spent from 2013 to 2018 for higher education. In addition, an amount of Rs. 8091.84 crores has been sanctioned under HEFA. UGC has also informed that it has funded several schemes for research and innovation like Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), University with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Areas (CPEPA), Fellowships support for Research to students and teachers. During 2017 -18, an amount of Rs. 1791.92 crores has been spent under these schemes.

(c) to (e): No, Madam. There is no such proposal.
