

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No. 415  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2019**

**Central Universities**

**\*415. DR. RAJDEEP ROY:**

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

(a) whether any special programmes are being undertaken for Central Universities of the North-East for their infrastructural development and encouragement of research programmes; and

(b) the details of funds sanctioned/utilised by Assam University-Silchar during the last three years?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) to (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 415 FOR 22.07.2019 ASKED BY DR. RAJDEEP ROY REGARDING CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES.

(a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been constantly striving to develop a system of higher education of quality appropriate to the national needs and aspirations and in tune with global trends. In order to realize this, UGC allocates resources in such a manner that higher education system in the country is streamlined and strengthened along the principles of access & expansion, quality & excellence, equity & inclusion, research & relevance and ICT incorporation.

Further, in order to encourage research and development in the North-Eastern Universities, UGC is implementing schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes under which financial assistance is provided to institutions of higher education as well as faculty members working therein to undertake quality research covering areas of knowledge across disciplines. Some of the initiatives taken by UGC for improving quality of Higher Education are as follows:-

- (i) Choice based Credit system (CBCS).
- (ii) Universities with potential for excellence.
- (iii) Centre with potential for excellence in particular area.
- (iv) Special Assistance Programme (SAP).
- (v) Basic Science Research.
- (vi) Major Research Project.
- (vii) Community College
- (viii) Scholarship scheme (ISHAN UDAY) for North-Eastern Region.
- (ix) New methodology of Grading by NAAC.
- (x) UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree) Regulations, 2016.
- (xi) UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulation, 2016.

There is a special scholarship scheme of UGC namely Ishan Uday Scheme. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to selected candidates belonging only to North Eastern Region for pursuing Under Graduate programmes in General/ Technical/ Professional Courses including Medical and Paramedical Courses in recognized Universities/ Institutions/ Colleges in India.

Further, as the maximum degree of endangerment is in tribal languages, North Eastern and Himalayan languages, language of numeric and coastal languages. Therefore, UGC has identified these areas for protection of Endangered Languages

and is running a scheme called “Establishment of Center of Endangered Languages” in Tezpur University, Rajiv Gandhi University and Sikkim University. Moreover, for North Eastern Languages Tezpur University is selected as Cluster University.

For infrastructure development in the higher educational institutions including Central Universities, the Government has set up Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 as a non-profit, Non Banking Financing Company (NBFC) for mobilizing extra budgetary resources for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions including Central Universities. Funds on interest free loan basis are provided by HEFA to higher education institutions including Central Universities for acquiring/creation of capital assets including infrastructure, construction of buildings etc.

Tezpur University (Assam), Assam University (Assam) and Rajiv Gandhi University (Arunachal Pradesh) have been sanctioned Rs.153.71 crores, Rs. 38.97 crores & Rs. 66.59 crores respectively for building infrastructure of the Universities under HEFA.

(b) The details of funds sanctioned/utilised by Assam University, Silchar during the last three years are as follows:

(Rs in Lakhs)

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Utilised
2016-17	8975.51	9890.20
2017-18	14241.65	13549.26
2018-19	9909.02	13774.83

In addition to amount sanctioned by UGC, the internal receipts generated by Assam University during the years 2016-17 (Rs. 1212.71 lakhs), 2017-18 (Rs. 1048.74 lakhs) and 2018-19 (Rs. 1195.72 lakhs) were allowed to utilise to cover the deficit of expenditure under recurring grants.

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