

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 156
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2019**

Conversion of University

†156. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

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

- (a) the number of universities in the country including Patna University which the Government proposes to convert into Central University along with the criteria adopted for the said process;
- (b) the reason as to why not even a single University in Bihar has got the status of Central University; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank')**

(a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal for conversion of Patna University into Central University. There are already three Central Universities functioning in the State of Bihar at Gaya, Motihari and Nalanda. However, the State Government is yet to hand over possession of land for the Central University at Motihari. Besides, the Prime Minister package for Bihar also proposes to establish a new Central University near Bhagalpur at the historic site of Vikramshila University. As a policy decision, this Ministry avoids conversion of any university into Central University for reasons of legacy issues, adjustment of existing staffs and disaffiliation of affiliated colleges.

As per the 12th Plan (2012-17), as approved by the National Development Council, the thrust is on consolidation of the higher education system and expansion is to be mainly done by scaling up capacity of the existing institutions in place of setting up new institutions. Further, 'Education' being a concurrent subject, the State Government may also take initiative for establishing new universities.
