

Regulations on 19.01.2013 in the Gazette of India. The AICTE has also approved draft Regulations in its 32nd meeting held on 14.02.2013.

(c) and (d) While no such specific request has been made to the State Governments, the Central Government has asked the State Governments to familiarize the State Higher Educational Institutions with the need to undergo assessment and accreditation on norms and standards prescribed by the statutory regulatory authorities and subsequently to monitor them in their efforts to undergo these processes.

Standard of higher education

96. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether standard of higher education in various universities is going down;
- (b) whether the President of India and Prime Minister have expressed concern over it;
- (c) if so, the reasons for the degradation; and
- (d) the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) In a recently conducted conference of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities, the Hon'ble President of India and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India expressed concern over the declining quality of higher education in certain universities and institutions, in the context of the critical role quality of education would play in shaping the future growth of the nation.

(c) Some of the factors which might have contributed to the impression that standards are declining, include the fact that expansion in the number of institutions has widened the gap amongst them in learning outcomes. An unprecedented number of new central institutions were created in the Eleventh plan period. 18 new Central Universities, 08 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), 06 new Indian Institutes of Management (MM), 10 new National Institutes of Technology and 05 new Indian, Institutes of Science Education and Research were created in the Eleventh plan. 54% expansion of capacity in Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) was also undertaken in the Eleventh plan.

(d) The Hon'ble Prime Minister had also emphasised that expansion should not be at the expense of quality. Precisely for this reason, Twelfth plan has laid emphasis on consolidation and quality improvement, rather than creation of new institutions. Since longevity is an inherent attribute of quality, especially in the context of universities, the new institutions are now focusing on quality and excellence.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at raising standards of higher education in Indian Universities and colleges. It has taken up various measures for educational reforms, such as introduction of the Semester System, the regular updating of curricula and Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS) etc, which have been implemented by most of the Central Universities. The UGC has also issued regulations on "Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010" for improving the standards of teaching in Indian Universities. In order to improve quality of teachers and teaching, the National Eligibility Test (NET) and the State Level Eligibility test (SLET) have been made compulsory requirements, with the only exception being those who have completed Ph.D in accordance with UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulations 2009.

The UGC has also notified the Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions Regulations, 2012 which makes it mandatory for higher educational institutions to get themselves assessed and accredited.

The UGC (Promotion & Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutes) Regulations, 2012 have been approved by the UGC in order to raise standard of higher education in Indian universities by collaborating with the best institutions in the world.

Student-teacher ratio

97. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any ratio for students to teachers in the country;