

**IITs in world university rankings**

\*55. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to the recent world university rankings, the IITs in the country have slipped their positions in 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether students, teachers and experts have expressed concern over this ranking and urged the Government to find new ways for improvements; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction on such ranking of Indian institutions and the steps taken to improve their position in the world?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) There are different International University ranking agencies engaged in Ranking of Universities worldwide. The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World Ranking, Times Higher Education Rankings (THER) and Academia Ranking of World University (AWRU) are widely observed International University Rankings.

The table below indicates Ranking of IITs among World Universities by Times Higher Education (THER) in the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 as per the information available on their website:—

Year	Name of Institute	World University Rankings
2011-12	IIT Bombay	301-350
	The other IITs were ranked below 400. Therefore, they do not appear on the THER website.	
2012-13	IIT Bombay	251-275
	IIT Kharagpur	226-250
	IIT Roorkee	351-400

As can be seen from the table above, the ranking of all IITs ranked by THER has improved.

The table below indicates Ranking of IITs among World Universities by QS in the years 2011 and 2012 as per information available on their website:—

Name of Institute	World University Rankings 2011	World University Rankings 2012
IIT Delhi	218	212
IIT Kanpur	306	278
IIT Bombay	225	227
IIT Madras	281	312
IIT Kharagpur	341	349

As shown in the table above, the rankings of IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur have improved in 2012 while those of IIT Bombay, IIT Madras and IIT Kharagpur have declined.

The variation in rankings is primarily because the different ranking agencies use different indicators and assign different weightages for each indicator.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has addressed the issue of ranking seriously and has organized workshops in coordination with the THER and the QS ranking agencies for informing heads of academic institutions about the issues involved in the ranking process. Based on these discussions, the following issues have emerged that enable a better understanding of the rankings methodology:—

1. IITs are primarily science and technology oriented institutions. The typical World and Asia Rankings are meant for universities and consider items like arts, medicine, social sciences, etc. In terms of rankings related to Engineering and Technology, IITs are ranked between 30 and 100 and are therefore within the top 100 institutions.
2. The five/six older IITs together form the size of a typical large U.S./U.K. university. There are rankings which put all IITs together and compare them to universities of similar size. In this count, IITs together come within the top 20 if not in the top 10 on some items like publications (rank 2).
3. Also in most of the widely publicized rankings, like QS and THER, a large percentage (from 40% to 60%) is based on surveys and not on hard data like graduates, publications, citations, etc.
4. There is a 15% weightage on internationalization where the IITs score low as they have low presence of international faculty and students. On the other hand IITs have very strong international research collaborations with industry which is not counted.

5. IITs have a very good track record in international terms when it comes to research publications/citations and are rated very high on this count. But this does not count for more than 30% weightage.
6. IITs are also affected on faculty student ratio as some of the agencies count research staff as faculty. Since as of now IITs do not have a large non-faculty research staff with PhDs, they get adversely affected by such calculations. This also accounts for about 10% to 15% weightage in some cases.
7. Computation of citations is fairly disparate for different agencies and they are themselves refining and modifying the same from time to time.
8. Most agencies do not consider important areas of contribution of IITs like contribution of alumni (top 10 in the world), impact on national development goals, entrepreneurship generation, etc. where IITs have excelled compared to others in the world.
9. In some cases, complete data is not taken (like industry income set to 0 in a recent survey for one IIT), which seriously affect the rank.

#### **Expert Committee on MDMS**

\*56. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted an Expert Committee to review, monitor and improve the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) which caters to more than 120 million children across the country; if so, the composition thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to bring improvement in MDMS; and

(c) whether Government has asked all the States to ensure quality, safety and hygiene under MDMS and has reminded them to create safer kitchen and storage areas as well as ensure prior testing of meals by teachers, conduct social audits, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Government has constituted an Expert Committee on 22nd August, 2013 to review, monitor and enhance the effectiveness of the Scheme with the following Terms of Reference:—

- (i) Access, safety, hygiene and quality aspects in the implementation of the MDMS.
- (ii) Mechanisms in place for ensuring convergence with Ministry of Health and