

Research project; (vii) Community College; (viii) B.Voc. Degree Programme; (ix) DDU KAUSHAL KENDRAS; (x) Scholarship Scheme (ISHAN UDAY) for North Eastern Region; (xi) New Methodology of Grading by NAAC; (xii) UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil / Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016; (xiii) UGC (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM) Regulation, 2016.

Autonomy to Educational Institutes

84. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government aims to grant full autonomy to as many educational institutes as possible;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that granting the autonomy is essential to improve the quality of education in the country;
- (c) whether Government has invited more institutes to come forward for seeking autonomy than being affiliated to bigger university in the region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has implemented the scheme of Autonomous Colleges with a view to bring in quality reforms in higher education. The Scheme of Autonomous Colleges offers academic and operative freedom to the Colleges. The autonomy so awarded under the scheme enables a College to determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi and restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs and to devise innovative methods of teaching, examination and evaluation.

The scheme of Autonomous Colleges is open for all Colleges. Any number of Colleges under a University can apply for award of autonomous status to UGC under this scheme. However, Colleges are granted autonomous status only when they fulfill conditions as prescribed in the guidelines of the scheme of Autonomous Colleges.

Quality of education in self-financing institutions

85. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any report about the quality of education imparted in self-financing professional education institutions and if so, the details thereof; and