

Single higher education regulator

2780. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to replace the UGC and the All India Council of Technical Education with a single higher education regulator, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to eliminate overlap in jurisdiction of two bodies and to remove irrelevant regulatory provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established in 1956 under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) was established in 1987 under the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987. These two institutions have been created to achieve two distinct objectives in the sphere of higher education. While the objective of the UGC is to promote and co-ordinate University education and to determine and maintain standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities, the AICTE aims at ensuring coordinated and integrated development of technical and management education and maintenance of standards.

The idea of establishing a single regulator for higher education is not new. Various committees on higher education have earlier recommended a single regulatory body. While National Knowledge Commission (2006) recommended an independent regulatory authority for higher education, the Committee on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education (Professor Yashpal Committee: 2009) advocated an apex regulatory body by converging multiple regulatory agencies in the field of higher education. Further, the University Grants Commission Review Committee (Prof. Hari Gautam Committee) in 2014 had recommended that the UGC should be replaced by an apex institution titled National Higher Education Authority.

However, no such proposal is under consideration at present, to merge the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) into a single higher education regulator.

Common entrance test for teachers

2781. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed common entrance test for teachers would incorporate different linguistic and cultural conditions in the country; and

(b) if so, on what parameters these teachers would be adjudged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) An entrance examination is under consideration. The exact modalities of this are being worked out.

Meetings of Committee on Official Language

†2782. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of meetings held by the Committee on Official Language Implementation and Advisory Committee from the year 2014 till date with reference to annual programme issued by department of Official Language of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the replies to letters in Hindi and English originally received in English and the total number of remarks made and letters written by head of the Ministry in Hindi and English respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): The Meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee are being held regularly in Ministry of Human Resource Development from 2014 and meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee were held on 14.10.2015 and 22.05.2017. Out of 91,177 letters originally received in English, 50,343 letters were replied to in Hindi. No record of letters sent to Region "C" is maintained.

During the year 2014-15 to 2016-17, total 77,557 Remarks were made, out of which 42,366 Remarks were made in Hindi and 35191 Remarks were made in English. As per the report of Progressive Use of Hindi, no record of letters sent by the Head of the Ministry is maintained. However 12,5,238 letters were sent in Hindi and 11,8,656 letters were sent in English by the Ministry.

Quality education and skills for engineers

2783. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 60 per cent of the eight lakh engineers graduating from technical institutions across the country every year remain unemployed;

(b) if so, the percentage of engineering graduates unemployed in the country;

(c) whether the corporate sector often complains that most of the engineering graduates in the country do not get the necessary skills and talent; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.