

The University has taken various steps for further strengthening the security of female students like installation of CCTVs at the sensitive areas, strengthening of patrolling near girls' hostels etc.

UGC panel for maintenance of standards in higher education

1997. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has constituted a panel to discuss new measures for maintenance of standards in higher education and to look at an overhaul of the present service condition and appointment rules for teachers and other staff in universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the UGC has also issued amended regulation on minimum qualification to appoint teachers and other staff based on 2016 amendment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. University Grants Commission (UGC) has intimated that it has constituted a panel under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Arun Nigavekar, former Chairman, UGC to discuss new measures for maintenance of standards in higher education and to look at an overhaul of the present service condition and appointment rules for teachers and other staff in universities and colleges. Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee are as under:—

- Evaluation of the Academic Performance Indicator (API) Scheme as regards the entry point and career advancement of teachers by taking into account its criticism and suggest suitable improvement/alternatives.
- Evaluation of Ph.D-NET qualifications for entry of teachers and to accordingly suggest a policy for selections.
- Consideration of the problems and issues related to Ad-hoc and Contractual appointments in Central Universities and recommendations to resolve them.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The UGC has notified UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (3rd Amendment), Regulations, 2016 on 4-5-2016. According to the above, the minimum requirement are a good academic record, 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) at the master's level and qualifying in the

National Eligibility Test (NET), or an accredited test (State Level Eligibility Test - SLET/SET), shall remain for the appointment of Assistant Professors. However, that candidates, who are or have been awarded a Ph.D. Degree in accordance with the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 or the subsequent Regulations if notified by the UGC, shall be exempted from the requirement of the minimum eligibility condition of NET/SLET/SET for recruitment and appointment of Assistant Professor or equivalent positions in Universities/Colleges/Institutions.

Thereafter the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (4th Amendment), Regulations, 2016 have been notified on 11-7-2016 which has stipulated Academic Performance Indicators (API) for Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of teachers in Universities and Colleges.

Quality education to children

†1998. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) whether children from second to fifth class are very poor in reading and writing due to the failure of schools in imparting quality education to the children; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the elementary education and whether the Ministry proposes to devise a new system equipped with technology to impart more knowledge through lesser number of books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in classes III and V. Four rounds of National Achievement Survey (NAS) have been conducted so far for class V and three rounds for class III. These surveys reveal improvement in learning achievement levels of pupils, in identified subjects from first round to fourth round. Further, a National Achievement Survey based on learning outcomes has been conducted on 13th November, 2017 with a sample frame upto district level to enable states/UTs to identify gaps in learning outcomes at district level and design strategies to address those gaps.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.