

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified regulations pertaining to recognition, accreditation of the higher educational institutions, minimum qualifications for appointment as teacher/ academic staff, curbing the menace of ragging and grievance redressal for enhancing the quality of higher education in the institutions. The Commission has also launched schemes related to scholarship and fellowship *e.g.* PG Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST etc. for promoting inclusion and equity. Moreover, The University Grants Commission has given skill orientation to higher education under skill development scheme by way of starting Community Colleges, B.Voc degree programme and Deen Dayal Upadhyay KAUSHAL Kendras.

Further, The All India Council for Technical Education has undertaken following initiatives for enhancing the quality of technical education in the country.

- (i) Training Policy for Technical Teachers
  - (ii) Perspective Plan for Technical Education
  - (iii) Induction Programme for Engineering students
  - (iv) Model Curriculum for Engineering and Management Courses.
  - (v) Exam Reforms
  - (vi) Start up Initiative
  - (vii) NBA Accreditation for approval of technical courses
  - (viii) Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
- (c) Does not arise.

#### **Replacing UGC with HEC**

252. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) would be replaced by the Higher Education Commission (HEC);
- (b) whether there is representation from SC/ST/OBC/PWD/Women in the Commission and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) to what extent Government would control academic matters and monetary grants; and

(d) whether Government has studied any education models or had any representation from education bodies before proposing the HEC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has prepared a draft Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018 for repeal of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act and setting up Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) for promoting the quality of academic instruction, maintenance of academic standards and autonomy of higher educational institutions for free pursuit of knowledge, innovation, incubation, skills and entrepreneurship, and for facilitating access, inclusion and opportunities to all, and providing for comprehensive and holistic growth of higher education and research in a competitive global environment including the composition of the proposed HECI. The draft Act has been put in public domain for seeking public comments.

(c) The draft Act focuses on less government and more governance, academic quality and end of intrusive and unwarranted inspection of the UGC. The proposed HECI will focus on promoting the quality of academic instruction, maintenance of academic standards and grant of autonomy of higher educational institutions. The grant disbursement function to Universities and Colleges is proposed to be located in an entity which works in a transparent, merit-based approach through an ICT enabled platform.

(d) The need to address the growing concerns on the performance of regulatory bodies in Higher and Professional Education has, been discussed and debated by various commissions and committees on higher education viz. the National Knowledge Commission (2006), Yashpal Committee (2009), Hari Gautam Committee (2014). All these committees have recommended re-structuring of the regulatory and professional bodies. In addition, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development in its 265th report (2015-16) recommended for strengthening of the UGC for effective regulation of higher education.

The Ministry has put the draft Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2018 in public domain on 27.06.2018 for seeking comments and suggestions from educationists, stakeholders and general public before 20.07.2018. As on 15th July, 2018, 7529 suggestions/comments covering Members of Parliament, State Governments, academicians, teacher unions, Chambers of Commerce, students etc. have been received and appropriate changes are being made in the draft Bill based on public feedback.