

Opposition to replacing UGC with HEC

258. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of eminent academicians are opposing Government's proposal of replacing UGC with a new Higher Education Commission (HEC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there have been any consultations with the academicians in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (e) 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.

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.

Research Park in IIT, Hyderabad

259. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has given approval for setting up of new Research Park in IIT, Hyderabad at a cost of ₹75 crore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has fixed any time by when the Research Park would be fully operational;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (e) The competent authority in pursuance to the recommendations of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its Meeting held on 29.08.2017 approved the Scheme “Start-up India Initiative in Higher Educational Institutions” for establishment of five new Research Parks at a total cost of ₹375.00 crore one each at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad and IISc Bangalore at ₹75.00 crore each over a period of three years beginning 2017-18.

University for differently-abled in Rajasthan

†260. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish a university for the differently-abled students in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to establish a university for the differently-abled students in Rajasthan. As per the 12th Plan (2012-17), as approved by the National Development Council, the thrust was on consolidation of the higher education system. Expansion was to be mainly done by scaling up capacity of the existing institutions in place of setting up new institutions. The Central Government has launched Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) on cost sharing basis to assist States to open new institutions. Further, 'education' being a concurrent subject, the State Government also takes initiative in establishing new universities.

Funds under RUSA

261. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased the quantum of funds

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.