

Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, UGC's main responsibility is to promote and coordinate University education and determine and maintain standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities.

UGC is competent to cause an inspection/academic audit of any department or departments of colleges after due consultation with the University concerned to ascertain the financial needs of the University or its standards of teaching, examination and research.

The UGC (Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012 provide for the quality control in higher educational institutions (HEIs) by the accreditation through National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) conforming to the parameters of academic quality and benchmarking of such academic quality determined by the UGC. As per NAAC guidelines the Internal Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC) are established in the HEIs for post accreditation quality sustenance activity.

Thus, UGC, if need so arises, is competent to decide on undertaking any review/inspection/academic audit as it deems fit to achieve the mandated objective of promotion and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities.

Section 12 (d) of the UGC Act empowers the UGC to recommend to any University the measures necessary for the improvement of University education and advise it upon the action to be taken for the purpose of implementing such recommendation.

Status of Sanskrit language

2964. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many students in India are learning Sanskrit language;
- (b) how many registered teachers of Sanskrit are there in the country;
- (c) what are the degree courses available in Sanskrit; and
- (d) whether the Ministry is working on any policy to give preferential advantages to Sanskrit speakers in Government jobs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) No such centralised mechanism exist in this Ministry for collection/compilation of data on the number of students learning Sanskrit and registered teachers in Sanskrit. As such the information is being collected and shall be furnished to the house.

(c) The details of degree courses available in Sanskrit are as under:—

Sl.No.	Specified degrees	Level
1.	Shastri/Shastri(Hons.)	B.A.
2.	Acharya	M.A.
3.	Shiksha Shastri	B.Ed.
4.	Shiksha Acharya	M.Ed.
5.	Vishistacharya	M.Phil.
6.	Vidya Varidhi	Ph.D.
7.	Vachaspati	D.Litt.

(d) At present no such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Latest vacancy position in Central Universities

2965. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many seats among teaching positions are vacant in Central Universities as of 31 March, 2020;

(b) the average time for which a teaching post in a Central University remains vacant; and

(c) the methodology of computing the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) As per information made available by University Grants Commission (UGC). as on 01.03.2020 a total of 6386 teaching positions were vacant in 40 Central Universities under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource