

(IIT-PAL) has been started in which the teachers of IITs offer free education for the students of class XI and XII (those are willing to take admission in IITs and other institutes). Apart from this, the video contents for Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics have been prepared by the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas. This material is available on IITPAL as well as on dedicated channels of SWAYAM PRABHA free of cost.

The government has also introduced various reforms in the Higher Education Sector in the shape of continuous updation of curriculum, semesters system, capacity building of teachers, raising the barriers for entry into the teaching profession, attractive pay package and other service conditions, which are likely to improve the quality of college education and reduce the dependence of the college students on pre-examination coaching centers. There are also schemes of University Grants Commission (UGC) to provide coaching facilities to students to weaker sections preparing for technical/professional examination and jobs.

Plan to improve ranking of Indian educational institutions

†534. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) details of special action plan formulated by Government to improve ranking of India at international level and encourage research and development work in educational institutions in the country;

(b) whether teachers engaged in research work under these schemes are to be encouraged financially;

(c) measures taken to implement research schemes in private educational institutions; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'):
(a) Government of India is committed to the nation to empower Higher Educational Institutions to help them become world class teaching and research institutions. In this context, Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme has been launched in the year 2017

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

under which UGC has declared 10 Public and 10 Private institutions as IoEs. The objective of the scheme is to enable them to achieve rankings within top 500 in any of the world renowned ranking frameworks. Government Institutions will get financial assistance of 1000 crores over a period of five years in addition to the grant already being received. The institutions selected from the private sector will have autonomy to promote innovation and creativity. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken various quality initiatives such as examination reforms, mandatory internship, induction program for students, revision of model curriculum, internship, industry readiness accreditation, start-up and national initiative for Teachers' Training etc. to provide a thrust to improve quality of technical education in the country.

(b) Government has taken various initiatives to improve the global ranking of Indian education institutions and to increase quantity and quality of research in Universities / Institutions through various schemes, awards, fellowships, Chairs & Programmes with financial assistance across S&T disciplines such as, Basic Scientific Research (BSR), Universities and Colleges with Potential for Excellence (UPE/CPE), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) schemes, Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS), Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration, Minor and Major Research Projects (MRP), establishing Centres of Excellence, Research Parks and Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), Prime Minister's Research Fellows, Study in India, research workshops, seminars and conferences and Emeritus fellowship etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. AICTE provides financial assistance to teachers engaged in research under its themes namely Faculty Development Program (FDP), grant for organizing conferences and travel grant for attending international conferences/seminars.

Delay in examinations due to COVID-19 pandemic

535. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed various universities to complete all the examinations that were delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic by September 30th, 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;