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Educational centres to be ranked

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Details on Page 8

Centre to rank all higher edn institutions

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre is set to rank all higher educational institutions from next year without requiring them to come forward and submit data for a comparative assessment of their performance under various parameters.

The Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) has decided to engage its statistics department to collect the required data and information to rank the universities and colleges in 2018.

This comes after only a fraction of the existing institutions came forward to join the nationwide ranking exercise, conducted under the aegis of the ministry for the year 2016-2017.

India has the world's biggest network of higher educational



institutions with at least 760 universities, 38,498 colleges and 12,276 standalone institutions. However, just about 3,000 colleges and universities participated in the 2017 ranking, results of which were announced on Monday.

Majority of the institutions preferred not to be ranked for the second consecutive year as their participation in the nationwide exercise was not mandatory.

"Many of the higher educational institutions, which partic-

ipated in the 2016 ranking, did not take part this year because they were required to submit data on a variety of heads with introduction of several new parameters for assessment of their performance. We do not know whether they did not want to share data sought with us or not," an official associated with the ranking team said.

The ministry started ranking higher educational institutions from 2015-16, hoping to create an atmosphere of competition among them and also help students take an informed decision on choosing an institute.

"Till this year, we were depending on the institutes for their participation and submission of data. We will now create a central pool of data and information about all higher educational institutions and rank

them from next year," an official in the ministry told DH.

The ministry's statistics department conducts a nationwide survey on the status of higher education in India.

Ranking of all higher educational institutions is significant for the HRD ministry as it is keen on linking the ranking results with the central government grants to various institutes. This is also significant for the ministry as it is in the process of overhauling the current regulatory mechanism to grant greater autonomy to the better performing institutions and subject under-performers to stricter regulations.

"All these efforts are taken to make institutes accountable, transparent and improve the quality of education," the official said.