

Improving quality of education a major challenge: Naik

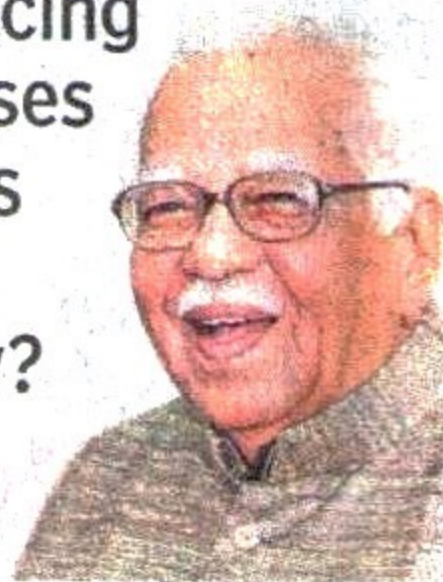
'Scope For Improvement On Law and Order Front'

Subhash.Mishra@timesgroup.com

He has been an unorthodox governor in the past one year at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow. Be it disapproving five out of nine names selected by the state government for vidhan parishad, or repeatedly reminding the state government about the appointment of a new Lokayukta, Ram Naik has been quite unlike his predecessors. He has also played an active role in bridging the Centre-state chasm over development issues and didn't mind praising the former prime minister Indira Gandhi for her Bangladesh 'feat'. Although he would be releasing a report card about his performance in the past one year, TOI spoke to him about his experiences. An excerpt:
Major challenge before

“ I am in Raj Bhawan to set the wrong things right. How can I pass the names for the council when some of them are facing criminal cases and charges of financial impropriety?

Ram Naik |
UP GOVERNOR



your in the past one year?

■ I personally feel that improving the quality of education in universities and the degree colleges has been a major challenge. When I took over in 2014, convocations were not being held in universities, mark sheets were given but degrees held up; posts of VCs in 10 universities and 30% posts of teachers were lying vacant; above all VCs were being threatened by anti-social and goonda elements.

Could you make a difference?

■ Barring three, most of the universities have full-time VCs, vacant posts would be fil-

led soon, VCs facing threat have been given police protection and convocations are being held regularly.

You filtered some names recommended by the state government for the legislative council. No governor has done it in the past. Are you redefining the role of the governor?

■ I am in Raj Bhawan to set the wrong things right. How can I pass the names for the council under the nominated category when some of them are facing criminal cases and charges of financial impropriety?

Law and order in the state has been a source of constant concern for you.

■ Definitely there is a scope for improvement. There is need for good governance also.

Your view on the delay in Lokayukta's appointment

■ I have already written to the state government and the chief justice of the Allahabad high court. The matter is also in the knowledge of the Supreme Court. I expect the government would do something.