GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-1625
ANSWERED ON-21/12/2022

Women students in STEM courses in Tamil Nadu

1625 **Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women students who have enrolled in STEM courses in colleges and or universities in Tamil Nadu for the last five years, district-wise;

(b) the number of students in Tamil Nadu who have dropped out during the duration of their course for the last five years; and

(c) whether the Central Government will launch a common virtual platform for promoting STEM courses and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a)   The number of girls who have enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of the Tamil Nadu from 2016-17 to 2020-21, district-wise, as per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) is available at https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques. There is increase in the enrolment of girls in STEM during the period from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

(b)   As in the Higher Education Sector Students have multiple options and they choose and migrate from one course or programme to another, hence as such no data is maintained on Drop Out in Higher education.

The Government has taken various steps like fee reduction, establishment of more institutes, scholarship, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education, etc.

(c)   Government has already launched Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds **(**SWAYAM**)** which is the national Massive Open Online Courses **(**MOOCs**)** platform that facilitates hosting of all courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. More than 2,796 MOOCs courses are available today covering STEM and other streams on SWAYAM. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to any learner.

Further, Virtual Labs project is a national project, under which more than 1000 web-enabled experiments have been developed in the STEM areas for interactive learning.

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