

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3214
ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

Steps taken to increase the representation of underprivileged students

3214 Shri Pramod Tiwari:

Shri Elamaram Kareem:

Shri Digvijaya Singh:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken to increase the representation of underprivileged students, especially those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the field of higher education during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) year-wise number of students admitted in Ph.D. programmes in the country along with their SC/ST/OBC/EWS status during last five years;
- (c) the number of SC/ST/OBC/EWS composition during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (d) initiatives taken by Government for SC/ST/OBC categories to train them for securing selection in Ph.D. programmes, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a): For safeguarding the interests of the underprivileged students, The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 has been notified. Further, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act 2019, this Ministry has also issued instructions for providing 10% reservation in admissions to the EWS. Subsequently, to ensure implementation of the EWS reservation in the Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) a provision of Rs. Rs.4315.15 crores was made for creation of additional 2,14,766 seats in 158 CEIs.

For ensuring the proper implementation of the reservation policy stipulated by the Government of India, this Ministry regularly issues directives to the Higher Educational Institutions/ Regulatory bodies under its purview.

Further, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing various scholarship/fellowship schemes for encouraging underprivileged students to pursue higher education by providing financial assistance.

(b) & (c): The year-wise and category-wise number of students enrolled in Ph.D.-Doctor of Philosophy programme from 2016-17 to 2020-2021 is tabulated as under:

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Total	138245	158363	166620	199225	203753
SC	12559	16138	17051	19571	17115
ST	4851	5938	5900	7149	6767
OBC	28816	37034	37346	49346	43343
EWS	--	--	--	--	3269

Source: AISHE

(d): UGC is implementing Coaching for National Eligibility Test or State Eligibility Test for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) & Minority Community Students.
