

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3222
ANSWERED ON-29/03/2023

SURVEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION

3222 SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey of higher education in different States including Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome of the said survey; and

(c) whether Government has identified any special region which needs more attention, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) is the comprehensive source of Higher Education Statistics wherein valuable data on various aspects is collected from Higher Education Institutions in the country including Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. The 11th round of the Survey (AISHE 2020-21) was conducted in 2022.

Some of the key findings of the said AISHE 2020-21 Report are:-

- Enrolment in higher education in the country has increased to nearly 4.14 crore in 2020-21, (crossing the 4 crore mark for first time) from 3.42 crore in 2014-15, an increase of 21%.
- Female enrolment in the country has increased to 2.01 crore in 2020-21 from about 1.57 crore in 2014-15, which is an increase of 28%.
- Enrolment in Gujarat has reached 16,53,130 in 2020-21 as compared to 14,35,209 in 2014-15, an increase of 15.2%. Female Enrolment has increased to 7,14,986 from 5,93,809 in 2014-15, an increase of 20.4%.
- Enrolment in Andhra Pradesh is 19,87,618 in 2020-21 compared to 17,67,086 in 2014-15, an increase of 12.5%. Female Enrolment in Andhra Pradesh has increased to 9,31,553 in 2020-21 to 7,73,650 in 2014-15, an increase of 20.4%.

- At the National level, there is increase in enrolment of Scheduled Castes Students to 58.94 Lakh in 2020-21 from 46.06 Lakh in 2014-15 (increase of 28%).
- There is a significant increase in enrolment of Scheduled Tribes Students in the country to 24.12 Lakh from 16.40 Lakh in 2014-15 (increase of 47%).
- Enrolment of Other Backward Castes in the country has increased to 1.48 Crore, from 1.13 crore in 2014-15 (increase of 32%).
- 70 more Universities have registered during 2020-21 compared to 2019-20. 353 universities have been added since 2014-15.
- The number of colleges has increased by 1,453 in 2020-21 over 2019-20. 5298 Colleges have been added since 2014-15.

(c) Since, Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, the combined efforts of the Centre and the States is required for improvement of Higher Education in the Country.

In 2008, an Expert Committee was constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) had identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) in the country.

Under the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), central support has been approved for setting up of 130 Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in unserved and underserved areas such as EBDs, aspirational districts etc. Further, support for 64 MDCs, had been approved under the erstwhile scheme of University Grants Commission of 'Scheme for providing financial assistance to New Model Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs)' which has been subsumed under RUSA.

Besides establishment of MDCs, central support is also provided for improvement of higher education in unserved and underserved areas, through various other components of RUSA, such as Infrastructure grants to colleges, Enhancing Quality and Excellence in Select Autonomous Colleges, Upgradation of Existing Degree College to Model Degree College etc.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also recommends that regions of the country with large populations from socially and educationally disadvantaged Groups be declared Special Education Zones (SEZs), where all the schemes and policies are implemented to the maximum through additional concerted efforts, in order to truly change their educational landscape. NEP envisages by 2030, establishment of at least one large multidisciplinary Higher Education Institution in or near every district.
