

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3225**  
ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

**Making higher education accessible to poor, middle class students**

3225 # Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- a) Whether it is a fact that the number of Indian students going abroad for higher education is constantly increasing;
- b) Whether it is a fact that students are inclined to go abroad as higher education especially medical education is costlier in India; and
- c) The details of efforts being made by government to make higher education accessible to poor, middle class students?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) : Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs maintains departure and arrival data of Indians. But there is no index of Indian students going abroad for higher education purpose. Purpose of Indians for going abroad is captured manually based either on their verbal disclosure or the type of visa of the destination country produced by them at the time of according immigration clearance. The number of Indians, who disclosed their purpose of visit as Study/Education while going abroad from 2019 to 2022, is given below:

<b>Year</b>	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Number</b>	5,86,337	2,59,655	4,44,553	7,50,365

(b) & (c): The National Medical Commission Act, 2019 provides for framing of guidelines for determination of fees and all other charges in respect of fifty percent (50%) of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities which are governed under the provisions of the Act. Accordingly, National Medical Commission (NMC) has framed the guidelines and the same were issued on 03.02.2022. The government has increased number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats. There is an increase of 69% in Medical Colleges from 387 before 2014 to 654 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 94% in MBBS seats from 51348 before 2014 to 99763 as of now and increase of

107% in PG seats from 31185 before 2014 to 64559 as of now. The measures/steps taken by the Government to increase the number of medical seats in the Country include:-

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/referral hospital under which 94 new medical colleges are already functional out of 157 approved.
- ii. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening/upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- iii. Under “Upgradation of Government Medical Colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks” of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) schemes, a total of 75 projects have been approved, of which 60 projects are complete.
- iv. Under the Central Sector Scheme for setting up of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), 22 AIIMS have been approved. Undergraduate courses have started in 19 of these.
- v. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- vi. Diplomate of National Board (DNB) qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- vii. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/extension/re-employment against posts of Teachers/Dean/Principal/Director in medical colleges upto 70 years.

The Government has been taking various initiatives for making higher education accessible to poor, middle class students such as scholarships / fellowships offered to SC/ST students, fee exemption or partially reimbursed; 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section; reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs; preparatory classes for SCs/STs for appearing in JEE exam; JEE exam being conducted in local / regional languages etc.

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