

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2281
ANSWERED ON 09/08/2023

INCREASING STUDENT'S ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

2281 Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of Universities in the country have seen a significant increase of 54 per cent in last five years;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) how many IITs and IIMs have been built over in last five years; and
- (d) the flagships schemes of Government which have contributed significantly in increasing student's access to higher education?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b): Considering the number of universities registered (cumulative) as per latest data of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21, vis-à-vis the number registered in AISHE 2015-16, there has been 39% increase in the number of registered Universities in last five years. However, compared to AISHE 2013-14, there has been 54% increase in the number of registered universities.

The State-wise details of universities registered during period 2015-16 to 2020-21 are available at https://www.education.gov.in/parl_ques

(c): There are 23 IITs functioning in the country as on date. In pursuance to the Budget Announcement 2014-15 and 2015-16, six new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) have been established in the States/ UT of Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati), Kerala (IIT Palakkad), Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu), Goa (IIT Goa) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad). Out of these, the academic session of IIT Tirupati and IIT Palakkad commenced in the year 2015-16 and remaining 4 IIT's academic session commenced in the year 2016-17 from their respective temporary campuses. Permanent campus of IIT Dharwad was inaugurated in March, 2023. In pursuance to budget announcement of 2015-16, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad was accorded status of IIT and was accordingly included in the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 in 2016.

Construction activities at IITs are a continuous process as a part of the efforts of IITs, to continuously increase their students' capacity and facilities offered. Various buildings at second generation IITs

(which are already operating from their permanent campuses) established at Jodhpur, Mandi, Ropar, Gandhinagar, Indore, Patna, Bhubaneshwar and Hyderabad have also been built in previous five years.

There are 20 IIMs functioning in the country as on date. Since 2014, Seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) namely Amritsar, Bodhgaya, Jammu, Sambalpur, Sirmour, Nagpur and Visakhapatnam have been established.

(d): Education being a subject of concurrent list, Educational Institutions are managed by both Central and State Government. Majority of the Educational Institutions in the country falls in the purview of the State / UT Government. The central higher education institutions/universities are envisaged to function more as pace setter institutions to provide academic leadership to other institutions in the region.

Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched in 2013 and implemented by the Ministry of Education for supporting States/UTs for improving the quality of selected State Universities and colleges. Till date 2972 projects, worth Rs. 14,846.86 Crore have been approved in RUSA. The third phase of the RUSA scheme has been launched as Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore for the FY 2023-24 to 2025-26. It supports colleges and universities across the country under various components such as Equity Initiatives, Infrastructure grants to universities, Infrastructure grants to colleges, etc.

For promotion of Digital Education, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education is administering 'National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology' (NMEICT) Scheme to leverage the potential of ICT, in providing high quality personalized education in "Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime Learning" mode. Under this scheme, various digital initiatives are being undertaken viz. SWAYAM ("Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds"), SWAYAM Prabha, National Digital Library (NDL), Virtual Lab etc. Anyone can avail the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offered through SWAYAM, interact with the teacher, take tests, earn academic credits and transfer them on their academic records as per the UGC Regulations. A total of 3095 unique MOOCs has been developed and 10,473 MOOCs courses have been offered on SWAYAM Portal since its launch. SWAYAM MOOCs have witnessed a cumulative enrolment of more than 3.59 Crore enrolments. For the current July 2023 Semester, 1125 courses have been approved to be offered and 21.88 lakh enrolments made till date.

NMEICT Phase-III has an approved total outlay of Rs 2454.60 Cr for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 and since 2021-22 total of Rs. 839.25 crores have been released under the Scheme.
