

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION No. 36
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023**

India's GER in higher education

36 Shri R. Girirajan:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education (27.1%) is much lesser than countries like USA, Germany, UK and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the National Educational Policy (NEP) aims to increase the GER in higher education to 50% by 2035, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the State-wise details of GER, and the steps taken by Government to incentivize the States having higher GER?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 36 ANSWERED ON 6th DECEMBER, 2023 REGARDING INDIA'S GER IN HIGHER EDUCATION ASKED BY SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN, HON'BLE MP:

(a) As per the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), has increased to 28.4 in 2021-22 (Provisional), from 27.3 in 2020-21 and 23.7 in 2014-15 (based on the population projections of 2011 Census for the age Group 18-23).

In India, GER for a year is taken as the Ratio of the Enrolment in Higher Education in the country in the particular year, to the projected population in the age-group 18-23 for the year. The GER in Higher Education is influenced by many factors, such as population in the age group, available eligible student population for Higher Education (i.e., School Pass outs), inflow and outflow of students from foreign countries, etc.

The GER of the country is reflecting an increasing trend over the years, on the basis of increased enrolment of students. The Enrolment in higher education increases to 4.33 Crores in 2021-22 from 3.42 Crores in 2014-15 (an increase of 91 Lakh students, i.e., 26.5% since 2014-15). There has been a significant increase in Female GER (to 28.5 in 2021-22 from 22.9 in 2014-15), SC GER (to 25.9 in 2021-22 from 18.9 in 2014-15) and ST GER (to 21.2 in 2021-22 from 13.5 in 2014-15) over the years, on account of significant increases in enrolment in Higher Education of Female students (32%), SC students (44%) and ST students (65.2%), respectively, since 2014-15.

(b) & (c) The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 envisages increasing the GER in Higher Education including vocational education, to 50% by 2035. Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include: -

- Opening of more Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):- The number of Universities/University level Institutions registered under AISHE have increased to 1168 in 2021-22(Provisional) from 760 in 2014-15. Similarly, number of Colleges registered under AISHE have increased to 45473 in 2021-22(Provisional) from 38498 in 2014-15.
- Open and distance learning (ODL): - Allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by UGC to offer full online programmes based on quality parameters, to widen the number of HEIs offering such ODL/Online programmes.
- Providing of Multiple Entry and Exit: - The provision of Multiple Entry and Exit provides much-needed flexibility and appropriate exit as well re-entry options in the

Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory. It will allow digitally storing the academic credits through the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) which inter alia will reduce drop-out rate, and increase GER.

- SWAYAM (Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds): - SWAYAM is a National Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform to provide anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners. It provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines from School to Post Graduation level enabling certification or grant of credits for degree. Up to 40% credit transfer is available for SWAYAM courses. Around 35 Lakh students enrol for the SWAYAM courses every Semester.
- Facilitating State Governments to achieve equity, access, and excellence in higher education, through the Rastriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) / Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme.
- Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students
- Conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, to facilitate students and making available Text Books in Indian Languages in Indian Language, to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

The States/UTs-wise GER, as per AISHE, 2021-22(Provisional) is given in the Annexure-I. The National Education policy offers opportunities for States with higher GER, to leverage the provisions such as Graded Autonomy for their institutions, aligning courses for Skill enhancement and greater employability of their students, accreditation of their Institutions for ODL, providing Multiple Entry and Exit options for students to choose their own learning trajectory, enhance online education capabilities, etc, to provide for more access and inclusivity for students of their States.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 36 ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN REGARDING "INDIA'S GER IN HIGHER EDUCATION"

States/UTs wise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education Based on 2011 Population census projection for 18-23 age group, as per AISHE 2021-22(provisional)

States/UTs	GER 2021-22
A & N Islands	22.6
Andhra Pradesh	36.5
Arunachal Pradesh	36.5
Assam	16.9
Bihar	17.1
Chandigarh	64.8
Chhattisgarh	19.6
Delhi	49
Goa	35.8
Gujarat	24
Haryana	33.3
Himachal Pradesh	43.1
Jammu and Kashmir	24.8
Jharkhand	18.6
Karnataka	36.2
Kerala	41.3
Ladakh	11.5
Lakshadweep	1.1
Madhya Pradesh	28.9
Maharashtra	35.3
Manipur	35.4
Meghalaya	25.4
Mizoram	32.3
Nagaland	18.8
Odisha	22.1
Puducherry	61.5
Punjab	27.4
Rajasthan	28.6
Sikkim	38.6
Tamil Nadu	47
Telangana	40
D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	11.2
Tripura	20.7
Uttar Pradesh	24.1
Uttarakhand	41.8
West Bengal	26.3