

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1064**  
ANSWERED ON- 31/07/2024

**Expanding Access to IIT Education**

**1064 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

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

- (a) the specific criteria and eligibility norms for students from Tier-2 and Tier-3 colleges in Andhra Pradesh to opt for minor specialization, diploma, degree programs through IITs;
- (b) whether there will be dedicated quotas or reservation policies for students from Andhra Pradesh to ensure equitable access to these collaborative programs offered by IITs; and
- (c) how Government and NSDC will address potential infrastructure and technological limitations in Tier-2 and Tier-3 colleges in Andhra Pradesh to ensure that students can effectively participate in online IIT courses?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), a national Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) program, implemented by Ministry of Education, is designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. Under this initiative, National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) (a consortia of leading IITs and IISc, led by IIT Madras), prepares high quality courses in engineering, emerging technologies and related inter-disciplinary/multi-disciplinary areas to provide anytime, anywhere learning to college students all across the country. Till date, more than 2000 MOOCs have been prepared through the NPTEL and course enrolments under SWAYAM is more than 3.8 Cr with more than 33 Lac from Andhra Pradesh.

Ministry of Education has also launched Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) to cater the needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas. This scheme is aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) provides technical support in addressing the infrastructure and technological requirements across Tier 2 and Tier 3 colleges through wide range of industry aligned programs offerings.

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