

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1011**  
ANSWERED ON-04/12/2024

**DISPARITY IN GER AMONG SC/ST**

1011 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) among Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) is still not at par with the national average in various States;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address and bridge this gap in enrollment among SCs and STs; and
- (c) expenditure incurred by Government on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in education, State-wise, and the details of the impact generated as a result of these activities?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

- (a) As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the National Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education is 29.5 for 2022-23 (Provisional). In comparison, the GER for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) stands at 27.3 and 23.5, respectively. Notably, while the National GER has increased by 5.8 points from 2014-15 to 2022-23 (Provisional), the GER for SC and ST has shown more substantial growth, with increases of 8.4 points and 10 points, respectively, during the same period.
- (b) Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. Various schemes/ projects/ programmes run by the Ministry have been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes, including providing greater access to women. The Central Government has taken various measures to promote higher education among the students across the nation including women, such as fee reductions, establishment of more institutes, scholarships, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education.

Government is implementing various Scholarships and Fellowships for providing financial assistance to students of SC/ST/OBC and Minorities, details of which are available in the following websites:

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department	Website links
1.	Department of Higher Education	<a href="https://www.education.gov.in/scholarships_education_loan">https://www.education.gov.in/scholarships_education_loan</a>
2.	University Grants Commission	<a href="https://frg.ugc.ac.in">https://frg.ugc.ac.in</a>
3.	All India Council for Technical Education	<a href="https://www.aicte-india.org/bureaus/rifd/Scholarship-Schemes">https://www.aicte-india.org/bureaus/rifd/Scholarship-Schemes</a>
4.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	<a href="https://socialjustice.gov.in/scheme-cat">https://socialjustice.gov.in/scheme-cat</a>
5.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	<a href="https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx">https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx</a>
6.	Ministry of Minority Affairs	<a href="https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/show_content.php?lang=1&amp;level=2&amp;ls_id=669&amp;lid=825">https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/show_content.php?lang=1&amp;level=2&amp;ls_id=669&amp;lid=825</a>

Education is in Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States. The States and Centre endeavour to uplift the educational status of the students of the country, especially the disadvantaged communities. Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include: -

i. As per the reservation policy of Government of India, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 was notified in January, 2007, wherein it has been stipulated that 15% of seats are reserved for SC students, 7.5% for ST students, and 27% seats for OBC students in admission in Central Educational Institutions. Instructions have also been issued to the Higher Educational Institutions to ensure that reservation-related provisions of the Act passed by Parliament are implemented by all educational institutions in letter and spirit.

ii. Opening of more HEIs:- The number of Universities/University level Institutions registered under AISHE have increased to 1213 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 760 in 2014-15 and number of Colleges have increased to 46,624 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 38,498 in 2014-15.

iii. Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students and underserved regions.

iv. Allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by University Grants Commission (UGC) to offer full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes based on quality parameters.

v. Providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well Re-entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory.

vi. Providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners through Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform, which provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines.

vii. 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 to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

(c) The Central Government has increased Budget allocation of Ministry of Education (MoE) from Rs. 93,224 Crore for the year 2021-22, to Rs. 1,04,278 Crore for the year 2022-23 to Rs. 1,12,899 Crore for the year 2023-24 and Rs. 1,21,118 Crores in the year 2024-25 for various activities of the Ministry.

Initiative of the Government has resulted in increase of GER to 29.5 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 23.7 in 2014-15. The SC GER has increased to 27.3 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 18.9 in 2014-15 and ST GER has increased to 23.5 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 13.5 in 2014-15.

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