

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1776  
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

**Higher Education under National Educational Policy, 2020**

**1776 Ms. Sushmita Dev:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiative for the introduction of "Design Your Degree" programme in various Higher Educational Institutions in the country, if so, the details thereof if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has initiated any comprehensive awareness program to enhance access to education for marginalized communities in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has initiated any specialized training programs for teachers who work in marginalized communities to ensure inclusive and culturally sensitive teaching methods, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): In alignment with National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), National Credit Framework (NCrF) has been envisioned as framework for creditisation of all types of learning including skilling in cohesion with regulations/guidelines of Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), Multiple Exit / Entry, Multi-disciplinary Education etc., provides students with flexibility for multidisciplinary education through creative combination of subjects, multiple pathways, establishing equivalence and mobility across HEIs and systems of education i.e., school, higher and skill education.

Toward this, a new student-centric "Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes (CCFUP)" has been formulated, incorporating a flexible choice-based credit system, multidisciplinary approach, and multiple entry and exit options. This facilitates students to pursue their career path by choosing the subject/field of their interest and also provides flexibility for learners to move from one institution to another to enable them to have multi-disciplinary learning and switch to alternative modes of learning (offline, ODL, online learning, hybrid modes of learning).

(b): NEP 2020 recognizes the need for an education system with equitable access to the highest quality for all learners regardless of social or economic background. It also envisages increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education including vocational education, to 50% by 2035 and the Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include: -

- i. 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. Similarly, number of Colleges registered under AISHE have increased to 46624 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 38498 in 2014-15.
- ii. Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students and underserved regions.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well as entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory.
- v. Allow pursuing two Academic Programmes simultaneously.
- vi. Permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform.
- ix. Conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, and making available Text Books in Indian Languages to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

The initiatives of the Government have resulted in increase of GER to 29.5 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 23.7 in 2014-15. GER of SC has increased in 2022-23 (Provisional) to 27.3 from 18.9 in 2014-15. Similarly GER of ST has increased in 2022-23 (Provisional) to 23.5 from 13.5 in 2014-15. In this regard, all States and UTs have been requested to take initiatives for enhancing access to higher education.

(c): In order to address issues related to teachers/faculty and their professional development, various capacity building programs such as NEP Orientation and Sensitization Programme, Faculty Induction Program, Short Term Program, Refresher Courses, Nurturing Future Leadership Program, Capacity Building Program on Specific Learning Disabilities, Capacity Building for Design and Entrepreneurship, Academic Leadership Program, Capacity Building Program for Promoting Positive Mental Health Resilience & Wellbeing in HEIs, are being implemented under Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Program (MMTTP).

NEP 2020 envisions an education system wherein students with and without disabilities learn together and the system of teaching and learning is suitably adapted to meet the learning needs of different types of students.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States/UTs. Both the Center and the States/UTs endeavour to uplift the educational status of the students of the country.

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