

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-192**  
ANSWERED ON-27/11/2024

**ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

192 Shri R. Girirajan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) annual expenditure on higher education as a whole in each of the preceding five years and percentages of Central budget in terms of GDP;

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve higher education in country to match with best performing State like Tamil Nadu in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Ph.D. Research Degrees; and

(c) annual budget allocations and the actual expenditure during the last five years for specific higher education schemes, namely, UGC Major Research Projects, UGC Minor Research Projects, Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) and others?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) As per latest available data in Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education, the total Government Expenditure on Higher Education (Union and States combined) and Percentage of Central Expenditure on Education to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), during the years 2016-17 to 2020-21 is as below: -

Year	Rs. in Crore				
	2016-17 (Actual)	2017-18 (Actual)	2018-19 (Actual)	2019-20 (RE)	2020-21 (BE)
Total Expenditure on Higher Education (Centre & States/UTs)	2,21,259	2,12,458	2,51,748	3,05,509	3,11,204
% of Central Expenditure on Education to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	1.09	0.97	0.96	1.01	1.13

(b) 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. 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.

- 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 Re-entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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.

In this regard, the Central Government has increased Budget allocation of Ministry of Education (MoE) from Rs. 93,224.31 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.

The initiatives of the Government have resulted in increase of GER to 29.5 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 23.7 in 2014-15. Ph.D. enrolment has increased by 99% to 2.33 lakh in 2022-23 (Provisional) compared to 1.17 lakh in 2014-15.

(c) Annual expenditure for UGC Scheme of Major Research Projects and Minor Research Projects during the last five years is as under:

<b>(Amount Rs. in lakh)</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Major Research Project</b>	<b>Minor Research Project</b>
2019-20	311.18	264.07
2020-21	20.03	8.68
2021-22	135.83	-
2022-23	94.90	-
2023-24	113.75	0.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>675.69</b>	<b>273.25</b>

Annual budget allocations and the actual expenditure during the last five years for schemes being implemented by UGC is placed in the following tables and that of Department of Higher Education including Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) etc. is available at [https://www.education.gov.in/parl\\_ques](https://www.education.gov.in/parl_ques)

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