

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2400**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

**EXPANSION AND GROWTH OF INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE, KOLKATA**

2400. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to increase the annual intake of students at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) from the current level of approximately 200 to match the scale of other premier institutes like IITs;
- (b) whether there are any plans to increase the number of ISI campuses to enhance its accessibility and prominence;
- (c) how frequently are ISI faculty members included in technical advisory bodies of various Ministries dealing with surveys, data analysis, and policy decisions; and
- (d) the details of ISI's contributions to national-level projects involving statistical expertise over the last five years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) The total number of students at Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), during academic year 2023-24, including undergraduates, graduates, diploma holders and PhD scholars, stands at approximately 1,200. In 2024, 450 new students and 60 new research scholars joined ISI across various programs. New academic programs have been initiated to increase the intake of students at ISI. Bachelor of Statistical Data Science (BSDS) programme has been launched this year at ISI Kolkata, Delhi and Bengaluru centres. Additionally, ISI has significantly expanded its academic offerings viz. Masters in Mathematics (MMath), previously offered at ISI Bengaluru, has now been introduced at ISI, Kolkata, Postgraduate Diploma in Statistical Methods and Analytics (PGDSMA) program at ISI Northeast Centre in Tezpur has been introduced at ISI, Chennai and Postgraduate Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management with Statistical Methods and

Analytics (PGDARSMA), has been newly introduced at the ISI, Giridih branch. Supernumerary seats have been introduced in the undergraduate programs in order to ensure increasing participation of girl students.

(b) ISI functions as a single institution with multiple centers. Currently, there are no plans to increase the number of ISI campuses.

(c) ISI faculty members regularly serve on Committees and Advisory Boards for various Ministries and Organizations, including the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) etc. ISI's faculty member is part of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) and a number of faculty members have served in key positions such as the Chair of the National Statistical Commission and the RBI Monetary Policy Committee.

(d) ISI has made significant contributions to National Projects such as the National Coal Index, the Technology Innovation Hub, Center for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (CAIML), RC Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security, Systems Medicine Cluster (SyMeC): Accelerating Systems Medicine using a Cluster Approach, Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project Phase III (Cryptography Vertical) and the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean (BOBASIO) Region Airspace Safety Assessment Study etc.