

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1958
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2025

Representation of marginalized communities in higher education

1958 # Smt. Mahua Maji:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any step to improve enrolment and retention of students from SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in higher education, particularly in professional and postgraduate courses;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any internal evaluation or third-party review to assess the effectiveness of such interventions, if so, its key findings; and
- (c) whether any initiative has been taken or any incentives are being provided to improve faculty diversity in centrally funded institutions, particularly for the recruitment and promotion of faculty members from SC, ST, OBC and minority backgrounds, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken various initiatives for the educational empowerment of the students belonging to SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities which includes the following:

- i. Coaching Classes for Entry in Services for SC/ST/OBC (Non- creamy layer) & Minorities Community Students
- ii. Scheme of Coaching for SC/ST students and Minority Community Candidates for (National Eligibility Test (NET)/State Eligibility Test (SET) exam
- iii. Remedial Coaching for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) & Minority Community students
- iv. Establishment of Equal Opportunity Cell in HEIs

To make higher education affordable in IITs, relaxations in tuition fee of Under Graduate (UG) program is provided to the socially weaker section and economically weaker section of the society. This includes complete fee waiver for SC/ST and PwD students & full remission of fee for economically weaker students (whose family income is less than Rs. 1 lakh per annum) and also 2/3rd remission of fee for other economically weaker students (whose family income is between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh per annum).

Department of Higher Education is implementing three component schemes under Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan Yojana namely (i) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students, (ii) Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and (iii) Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme. In November 2024, the government of India has launched the PM Vidyalaxmi, a new central sector scheme, wherein collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan is provided to all the students who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions, subject to scheme guidelines. The scheme inter-alia aims to enhance the enrolment and retention of students from SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in higher education.

Due to various initiatives of Government, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SC, ST, OBC and minority students has increased substantially since 2014-15 as indicated by All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) data given below:

Survey year	SC	ST	OBC	All Minority
2022-23 (provisional)	69,13,067	28,71,973	1,74,05,044	32,90,326
2021-22	66,22,923	27,10,678	1,63,36,460	30,13,192
2014-15	46,06,666	16,40,809	1,12,56,849	21,83,184

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is implementing Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) students which provides financial assistance to eligible SC students to complete their post-matriculation or post-secondary education. The objective of Scheme is to appreciably increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of SC students in higher education.

Government of India has enacted The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019, which provides for the reservation of posts in the appointments by direct recruitment of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, socially and educationally backward classes, and economically weaker sections, to teachers' cadre in certain Central Educational Institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government. Ministry of Education and UGC issues instructions from time to time to the Universities to fill up their vacant posts including the posts reserved for various categories.
