

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2285

To be answered on

Thursday, March 12, 2026/ 21 Phalguna, 1947 (saka)

Prevention of youth migration

2285 **Smt. Sumitra Balmik:**

Will the Minister of **Development of North Eastern Region** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the alarming rate of youth migration from NER States to metro cities for education and employment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) the measures taken to create high-quality educational institutions in NER to prevent talent drain;
- (d) the number of medical colleges, engineering colleges and skill development centres established in the region during the last three years;
- (e) whether special scholarships and fellowships exist for NER youth to pursue higher education within the region; and
- (f) the strategy to make NER self-sufficient in retaining its educated youth?

ANSWER

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
[Dr. Sukanta Majumdar]

(a) & (b): Data on youth migration from North East Region (NER) states to metro cities for education and employment is not maintained centrally by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER). However, as per the Census 2011, there are 1,52,05,214 migrants in the NER states. Of these, 93.80% (1,42,62,490) are intra-state migrants and only 6.20% (9,44,050) are inter-state migrants. The all-India figure for inter-state migration is 11.90% and 88.10% for intra-state migration. The top three states to which inter-state

migration from the NER States occur are West Bengal (39.56%), Delhi (7.66%) and Maharashtra (7.4%).

(c)& (d): The Government has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen higher education infrastructure in the NER which would contribute to improving quality of education in the region. These include establishment and strengthening of premier institutions such as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Central Universities, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Guwahati, Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences Aizawl (RIPANS), Regional Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) Imphal and North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) Shillong. In addition, financial assistance has been provided under various schemes of the Ministry of Education and MDoNER for infrastructure development, expansion of academic and hostel facilities, etc. in universities and colleges in the NER.

Further, education being a concurrent subject, the State Governments also take initiatives to provide greater access to higher education in respective States. Private Universities, established through Act of concerned State Legislature, also contribute to imparting quality higher education to the youth of NER.

In addition, MDoNER has sanctioned 28 projects worth ₹2,225 crore in the sectors of health, education and skill development, including medical education, engineering education and skill development, in the NER during the last three years. These include projects such as establishment of a State Cancer Institute at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh; construction of a Medical College at Sivasagar in Assam; gap funding for construction of a Government Medical College at Sichey in Sikkim; establishment of a 200-bedded Maternal and Child Health wing at Agartala Government Medical College and G.B. Pant Hospital Agartala; establishment of dedicated services for management of paediatric and adult haematolymphoid cancers and a Skill Development Centre at Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute; and development of infrastructure for Manipur Technical University, among others. These initiatives aim to strengthen the education, healthcare and skill development facilities in the NER.

(e): The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India implements the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University students. Under the scheme, financial

assistance in the form of scholarships is provided to poor and meritorious students for pursuing higher education.

For improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio and promoting higher education in the NER, University Grants Commission under “ISHAN UDAY” Scholarship Scheme provides financial assistance in the form of scholarship to 10000 students every year. The students with domicile of NER, who have passed Class XII or equivalent exam from a school situated within NER through any recognized Board of Education and have secured admission in general degree course, technical and professional courses including medical and para-medical courses in Universities/Colleges/Institutions recognized by UGC, Institutions of National Importance/ Institutions recognized by other Statutory councils within as well as outside the States of NER are eligible for this Scholarship. Ten thousand (10000) Scholarships, at the rate of Rs.8,000/- per month for 10 months in a year, are available for students belonging to economical weaker section of NER.

Further, the Department of Higher Education is implementing Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State Government Universities and Colleges so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. The Government has launched the third phase of RUSA in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) with an outlay of Rs.12926.10 crore to cater to needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas.

(f): The strategy of the Government to make the NER self-sufficient in retaining its educated youth includes:

- i) Expansion of higher educational and professional institutions in the region.
- ii) Promotion of skill development, entrepreneurship and start-ups among youth.
- iii) Development of infrastructure and connectivity to attract investment and generate employment.
- iv) Implementation of targeted scholarship schemes and capacity-building programmes.
- v) Strengthening of local industries and service sectors to create sustainable livelihood opportunities within the region.

These measures aim to enhance educational opportunities, improve employability and create economic prospects in the NER.
