

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1956
ANSWERED ON-05/08/2026

GER in higher ducation

1956 **Shri R. Girirajan:**

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

- (a) the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education during each of the last five years, category-wise, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), minorities and women, along with State-wise/UT-wise GER during the said period;
- (b) whether at this rate it would be uphill task for Government to achieve the target of 50 percent GER in higher education in several States except Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka by 2030 and, if so, the details thereof, including the time-bound roadmap to expand quality higher education; and
- (c) the effective steps taken by Government to address the shortage of qualified teachers in Government schools and higher educational institutions in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2023-24, Category-wise, Gender-wise and State/UT-wise GER from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is available in AISHE Report, 2023-24. The report can be accessed at <https://aishe.gov.in/aishe-final-report/>.

(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 Centre and States together endeavour to increase the enrolment of students in Higher Education, especially in the under-served areas and the disadvantaged communities. Some of the initiatives of Central Government are as under:

National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) envisages increasing the 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 - Since 2014-15, 8 Central Universities, 7 IITs, 8 IIMs, 16 IIITs, 2 IISERs, 1 NIT and 12 AIIMS have been newly established.
- 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) 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, to facilitate students and making available Text Books in Indian Languages to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

The Government has notified the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, wherein reservation of seats in Central Educational Institutions is implemented, which is 15%, 7.5% and 27% of the annual permitted strength in each branch of study or faculty for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) respectively.

The Central Government has also taken various measures to promote higher education among the students across the nation, such as fee reductions, establishment of more institutes, scholarships, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education.

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), also strive towards enhancing access and equity to higher education through distance mode. It pays special attention to disadvantaged sections of the society and regions by establishing study centres in the backward areas and districts.

The Department of Higher Education is implementing Rashtriya Uchchatar 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. In alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), with an outlay of Rs. 12,926.10 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 to cater to needs of educationally unserved/underserved areas. The scheme has been further extended till 31st March, 2028.

Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/ UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/ Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc.

Under the Scheme, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including construction of hostels, academic and administrative buildings, laboratories and other facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education. Furthermore, under PM-USHA, States/ UTs and Universities/ Colleges can undertake various activities aimed at enhancing access, equity and excellence in education, including promoting Online Distance Learning (ODL) and online programs such as SWAYAM/ MOOCs; construction of smart classrooms/ computer labs/ research laboratories/ digital libraries with subscriptions to reputed journals; and training to develop 21st-century skills, etc.

Further, in pursuance of the Budget announcement 2025-26, Government has approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity including creation of Research Park of five new IITs which have been established in the State/UT of Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati), Kerala (IIT Palakkad), Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad) with a total outlay of Rs. 11,828.79 crore, which would facilitate education for additional 6,500 students.

Union Budget 2026-27 has announced setting up of 5 University Townships in the vicinity of major industrial and logistic corridors and 1 girls' hostel in every district through Viability Gap Funding /capital support to encourage enrolment of girls in STEM institutes/ courses.

(c): Recruitment is a continuous process and vacancies arise due to a number of factors like retirement, resignation, increased requirement of teachers because of the enhanced students' strength etc.

The Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides financial assistance to the States and UTs to maintain appropriate Pupil- Teacher Ratio (PTR) for various levels of schooling, as per norms prescribed in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, as amended from time to time.

The recruitment, service conditions and rational deployment of teachers come under the purview of the respective State governments/UT administrations. In order to ensure quality, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has laid down minimum qualification for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher. The Government periodically advises States/UTs to fill vacant posts of teachers, to ensure timely recruitment of teachers by adopting a transparent and merit-based process through autonomous teacher recruitment boards or similar organisations.

With a view to collecting real-time data from schools, Government of India has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) from the year 2018-19. As per the data reported by States/ UTs in UDISE+ 2025-26, the number of teachers in position in government schools is 51,34,623.

The Central Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) under Ministry of Education including Central Universities, IITs, NITs are statutory autonomous organizations established under respective Central Acts of Parliament and governed by provisions of the Acts/Statutes/Ordinances/Regulations made thereunder. As autonomous institutions, faculty recruitment is done within the institutions itself, in accordance with their Acts and Regulations. The recruitment powers vests with the respective Board of Governors/Executive Committee/Board of Management.

In Centrally financed Higher Education Institutions, measures have been taken to attract quality faculties which includes year-round open advertisements, recruitment through search-cum- selection procedures, special recruitment drive, mission mode recruitment and invitation to alumni/scientists/faculty, etc. The faculty recruitment processes are carried out by the CHEIs by inviting applications in a transparent manner, as part of a multi-step and robust screening process. The Acts and Statutes of various institutions specify the composition of selection committees, authorities responsible for recruitment of various levels of faculty, provision of independent subject experts and Visitor's nominees etc. so as to ensure transparency and academic rigour in recruitments.

In August, 2021, all Central Higher Educational Institutions (CHEIs) under Ministry of Education were requested to undertake special drive to fill backlog vacancies in their institutions in Mission Mode. The CHEIs undertook special recruitment drives to fill the vacancies including of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). In September 2022, Ministry of Education had also exhorted all the CHEIs to fill up the vacancies in Mission Mode. In October 2025, all the CHEIs have again been requested to fill up all the backlog vacancies in Mission Mode. From September 2022, all CHEIs have undertaken Mission Mode recruitment drive to fill the vacancies. Up to 23.05.2026 (i.e. the date

of last Rozgar Mela), a total number of 32114 posts have been filled up by all CHEIs, including 18757 faculty positions, in Mission Mode.

UGC has launched a common portal 'CU-CHAYAN' for faculty recruitment, making provision for listing of vacancies/ advertisements/ jobs across all Central Universities, thus making the entire recruitment process more transparent and accessible.

As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2023-24, the total number of teachers in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) registered on AISHE is 17,32,294.
