

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.64
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2019

Reservation for EWS Category

64. SHRI L.R. SHIVARAME GOWDA:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
DR. P. VENUGOPAL:
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:
SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to implement 10 percent reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of general category from 2019 academic session and increase of 25 percent seats in higher educational institutions and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has rolled out the operation manuals for the implementation of EWS Quota for General Category in higher educational institutions and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this quota would be over and above existing quotas for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes to implement the quota for admissions in the upcoming academic year and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other major steps taken by the Government in the higher education sector in the country during the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) & (b): The one hundred and third Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019 has enabled the State to extend various benefits, including admission in the educational institutions, to the Economically Weaker Sections of the society who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has issued an OM dated 17th January, 2019 regarding reservation for Economically Weaker Sections

(EWSs) in civil posts and services in the Government of India and admission in Educational Institutions.

Further, for the implementation thereof, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has issued an OM dated 17th January, 2019, to provide admission to EWSs in Central Educational Institution (CEI) from the academic year 2019-20 onwards.

In order to ensure that the number of seats available for each category, for the academic session immediately preceding the date of commencement of these provisions, is not reduced every CEI will increase the number of seats over and above its annual permitted strength in each branch of study or faculty.

(c): Yes, madam. The available seats for admission in the upcoming academic year shall be increased to ensure that this quota for EWS would be over and above the ensuing quotas for scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes for admission in the upcoming academic year.

(d): Several major reforms have been undertaken by the Government to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the higher education sector. As per report of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in the age group 18-23 years has gone up to 25.8% with total enrolment estimated to be 36.6 million during 2017-18, as compared to 23% with total enrolment estimated to 32.3 million, during 2013-14. There has been a continuous increase in the funds disbursed by the UGC to the Universities and Colleges. The funds disbursed to Universities during the last three years i.e. 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are Rs.888628.43, Rs. 905882.26 and Rs. 1084058.52 respectively.

Several initiatives are undertaken to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT), and Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) are being implemented.

Further for promotion of innovation, cognitive thinking and improving the quality of Ph.D programmes, the Government has devised schemes in all the fields of education viz. IMPRINT (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology) for technical research, IMPRESS (Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences) for social sciences research, SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic Research and Collaboration) for joint research with Foreign Universities and STARS (Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Fundamental Sciences) for research in fundamental sciences.

The UGC has also started three schemes, namely Community College, B.Voc Degree Programme, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay KAUSHAL Kendras in Universities and Colleges for imparting skill development based vocational courses offering Certificate/Diploma/Advance Diploma/B.Voc M.Voc and Research level programme with multiple exit and entry options enabling vertical mobility of the students.

Considering that autonomy is pivotal to promoting excellence in higher education, the University Grants Commission (Categorization of Universities (only) for grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018 and the University Grants Commission (Conferment of Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018 have been notified. These Regulations will provide the much needed impetus to improve quality and promote autonomy in higher educational institutions.

The parameters of Assessment and Accreditation have been revised by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), which focus more on public disclosures than peer inspections. Further, owing to the constraints in the existing capacity for accreditation, the University Grants Commission (Recognition and Monitoring of Assessment and Accreditation Agencies) Regulation, 2018 has been notified to encourage multiple government/semi-government agencies for accreditation of higher educational institutions.
