

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 158
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

Permanent Academic Positions held by Women

***158. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a list of total number of women who currently hold permanent academic positions in the Indian Universities and other academic Institutions of Eminence;

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to the total number of men holding such positions in Indian Universities and other academic Institutions of Eminence and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the gender diversity at these positions;

(d) whether the Government is planning to launch a policy to prioritize recruitment of women in such institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 158 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023 ASKED BY DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "PERMANENT ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD BY WOMEN"

(a) & (b) As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21, 84,226 Females and 1,40,221 Males, are reported in permanent academic positions (includes Professor & Equivalent, Reader & Associate, Lecturer/Assistant Professor, Demonstrator/Tutor) in the Universities/Institutions like Universities in the country. Of these, 3008 Females and 7173 Males are reported in permanent academic positions in the Institutes of Eminence.

Notably, there is 61.3% increase (from 52,216 in 2016-17 to 84,226 in 2020-21), in the number of Females reported in permanent academic positions in Universities/, Institutions like Universities since 2016-17.

The ratio of Females to Males in permanent academic positions has also increased to 60 in 2020-21 from 53 in 2016-17.

(c) to (e) A number of initiatives/steps have been taken by the Government to increase the gender diversity in academic positions. More Female participation in higher levels of education has been envisaged through various Schemes/Scholarships/Fellowships and proactive measures aimed at Female students/scholars. This in turn translates into more candidates available for academic positions in Higher Education.

The following initiatives/welfare measures for greater Female participation and gender diversity in academic positions are mentioned :-

- i. Post-Doctoral fellowship for women– The objective of the scheme is to accelerate the talented instincts of the women candidates to carry out the advanced studies and research. The financial assistance is provided to unemployed women candidates holding Ph.D. Degree.
- ii. Savitribai Jyotirao Phule Fellowship for Single Girl Child- The objective of the scheme is to encourage higher education of single girl child pursuing Ph.D. in any stream/subjects.
- iii. P.G. Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child-The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to selected candidates being Single Girl Child for pursuing post-graduation on full time/regular basis in Universities/Institutes/Colleges in India.
- iv. Pragati Scholarship Scheme:- The scheme provides scholarship for women students pursuing polytechnic, engineering, pharmacy and architecture courses (in All India Council for Technical Education [AICTE] approved institutions), whose family income is less than Rs. 8 Lakh per annum.
- v. Campus Accommodation & Facilities Enhancing Social Experience (CAFES):- The scheme of AICTE aims to provide financial assistance for construction of hostel for Girls SC/ST.

- vi. University Grants Commission (UGC) has exempted women candidates from payment of fees to any examinations/ Test/ Interview conducted by Centrally Educational Institutions, to increase the representation of women in employment under Central Government/ Central Autonomous Bodies.
- vii. Further, UGC Regulations provides that a women academician shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor in the Selection Committee of the Recruitment process, if there is any woman candidate.
- viii. The UGC has allowed a relaxation of two years for Ph.D. for women.
- ix. Women candidates may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of M.Phil./Ph.D. for up to 240 days.
- x. In case of relocation of an M.Phil/ Ph.D. woman scholar due to marriage or otherwise, the research data shall be allowed to be transferred to the University to which the scholar intends to relocate provided the research work does not pertain to a project sanctioned to the parent Institution/Supervisor by any funding agency.

The initiatives of the Government has facilitated a tremendous increase of 60% in Female PhDs enrolment, from 59,242 in 2016-17 to 95,088 in 2020-21. This would provide more opportunities for women for academic positions in Higher Education.
