

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-108
ANSWERED ON-04/12/2023

MUSLIM COMMUNITY LAGGING BEHIND IN HEIs

108. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the All India Survey on Education conducted by the Ministry reveals that the Muslim community is lagging behind all communities in the Higher Education painting a dismal picture of the community;
- (b) if so, the details of All India Survey on Education 2020-21 State-wise/year wise/community-wise; and
- (c) the proposal of the Government to increase the admission from the communities which are lagging behind?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) &(b) As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), enrolment of students of Muslim community in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) has increased to 21.08 Lakh in 2021-22(Provisional) from 19.22 Lakh in 2020-21, and 15.34 Lakh in 2014-15. So increase in the enrolment of students of Muslim community is around 37.5%, whereas the overall Student enrolment in Higher Education has increased by 26.5% since 2014-15. Hence, the growth in enrolment of Muslim Students is higher the overall student growth. The details of Enrolment of students of Muslim Minority and total Students, State-wise, as per AISHE, is available at https://www.education.gov.in/parl_ques .

(c) The various initiatives of the Government in encouraging students from the Minority community as well as students from SC/ST/OBC communities has resulted in higher growth in enrolment of these communities over the years. Some of these initiatives are as under :-

I Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the Post Metric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for educational empowerment of students belonging to 6 notified Minority communities, namely, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian (Parsi). These are implemented with the objective to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the minority communities, increase their rate of attainment in higher education and enhance their employability and to enable the poor and meritorious students pursue professional and technical courses.

II. The Department of Higher Education is implementing the “Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan [PM-USP] Yojana”, with three component schemes namely :-

- Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students;
- Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh aimed specifically at youth of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to take advantage of the educational institutions outside these UTs and interact with their counterparts from rest of country];
- Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme.
All categories of students in the country including students from Muslim Community are eligible to get financial assistance as per the schematic norms. [The details of these schemes are available in the Ministry’s website: <https://www.education.gov.in/en/pm-usp-scholarships-education-loan>].

III. Besides, various fellowships and scholarships are being implemented University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

IV. Examinations like Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) etc. are conducted in 13 Indian languages, to facilitate the students of SC/ST/OBC/rural/vernacular background.

V. Education and Skill Textbooks in Indian languages are being brought out. All India Council of Higher Education (AICTE) has released entire course books for 1st Year of Engineering and Polytechnic subjects in Indian Languages. These would facilitate students, particularly from vernacular background and marginalised communities in pursuing Higher Studies.

VI. The University Grants Commission is implementing the following Schemes for weaker sections, including minorities :

- i. Remedial Coaching for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer), and Minority Community Students
- ii. Coaching Classes for Entry into Services for SC/ST/OBC (Non Creamy Layer) and Minority Community Students
- iii. Coaching For National Eligibility Test or State Eligibility Test for SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creams Layer), and Minority Community Students.
- iv. Certain relaxations in eligibility conditions in UGC-Junior Research Fellowship for SC/ST students are provided.
