

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1204**  
ANSWERED ON-11/12/2023

**GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO AMONG SC/ST STUDENTS**

1204. SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (in Higher Education) among SC/ST Students has been at 23.4 and 18.0 respectively, which is still below the national average of 27.1;
- (b) if so, the details of measures being taken by the Government to deal with the same; and
- (c) the progress made in this respect, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the SC GER has increased to 25.9 in 2021-22 (Provisional) from 18.9 in 2014-15 and ST GER has increased to 21.2 in 2021-22(Provisional) from 13.5 in 2014-15, whereas the National GER in Higher Education has increased to 28.4 in 2021-22 (Provisional) from 23.7 in 2014-15. The SC student enrolment has increased significantly to 66.23 lakh in 2021-22 (Provisional) from 46.07 lakh in 2014-15 (44% increase) and enrolment of ST students has increased 27.1 lakh in 2021-22(Provisional) from 16.4 lakh in 2014-15 (increase of 65.2%).

(b) & (c) Education is in Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States. The States and Centre endeavour to uplift the educational status of the students of the country, especially the disadvantaged communities like SC and ST. In this regard, the Government has taken several initiatives to encourage the students of SC/ST communities which has resulted in higher enrolment in these communities over the years. Some of these initiatives inter-alia include: -

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing Scholarships/Fellowships for ST students such as, National Scholarships(Top classes) for pursuing Graduate/Post Graduate courses in notified Government and Non-Government institutions in professional subjects, National Fellowship Scheme for ST students(fellowships for meritorious ST students to pursue Phd/MPhil) and National Overseas Scholarships.

- Ministry of Social Justice is implementing various Scholarship/Fellowship Schemes for SC students such as Top Class Education for SCs (in which financial support is given to pursue studies beyond 12<sup>th</sup> Class), National Overseas Scheme for SCs, National Fellowship Scheme for SC Students, etc.
- Ministry of Education, including University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), are providing financial assistance to the students of higher education including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students through various Scholarships and Fellowships.
- Undergraduate SC/ST students are exempted from payment of tuition fee in National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
- With the objective of supporting improvement of access, equity and excellence in State higher education system, Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) with an Outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- Hostels for SC/ST students are constructed under the Campus Accommodation & Facilities Enhancing Social Experience (CAFES) of AICTE.
- The University Grants Commission is implementing the following Schemes :-
  - 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.
- To facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background, Exams such as JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) are being conducted in 13 languages, and Text Books in Indian Languages are being published in a phased manner.

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