

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2385
ANSWERED ON-18/12/2023

TO INCREASE GER IN HIGHER EDUCATION

2385. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education (27.1 per cent) is much lesser than countries like USA, Germany, UK;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the New Education Policy aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education to 50 per cent by 2035 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to incentivize the States having Higher GER, the State-wise details of Gross Enrolment Ratio?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b) As per the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), has increased to 28.4 in 2021-22 (Provisional), from 27.3 in 2020-21 and 23.7 in 2014-15 (based on the population projections of 2011 Census for the age Group 18-23).

In India, GER for a year is taken as the Ratio of the Enrolment in Higher Education in the country in the particular year, to the projected population in the age-group 18-23 for the year. The GER in Higher Education is influenced by many factors, such as population in the age group, available eligible student population for Higher Education (i.e., School Pass outs), inflow and outflow of students from foreign countries, etc.

The GER of the country is reflecting an increasing trend over the years, on the basis of increased enrolment of students. The Enrolment in higher education increases to 4.33 Crores in 2021-22 from 3.42 Crores in 2014-15 (an increase of 91 Lakh students, i.e., 26.5% since 2014-15). There has been a significant increase in Female GER (to 28.5 in 2021-22 from 22.9 in 2014-15), SC GER (to 25.9 in 2021-22 from 18.9 in 2014-15) and ST GER (to 21.2 in 2021-22 from 13.5 in 2014-15) over the years, on account of significant increases in enrolment in

Higher Education of Female students (32%), SC students (44%) and ST students (65.2%), respectively, since 2014-15.

(c) The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 envisages increasing the GER in Higher Education including vocational education, to 50% by 2035.

(d) Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include: -

- I. Opening of more Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):- The number of Universities/University level Institutions registered under AISHE have increased to 1168 in 2021-22(Provisional) from 760 in 2014-15. Similarly, number of Colleges registered under AISHE have increased to 45473 in 2021-22(Provisional) from 38498 in 2014-15.
- II. Open and distance learning (ODL): - Allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by UGC to offer full online programmes based on quality parameters, to widen the number of HEIs offering such ODL/Online programmes.
- III. Providing of Multiple Entry and Exit: - The provision of Multiple Entry and Exit provides much-needed flexibility and appropriate exit as well re-entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory. It will allow digitally storing the academic credits through the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) which inter alia will reduce drop-out rate, and increase GER.
- IV. SWAYAM (Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds): - SWAYAM is a National Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform to provide anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners. It provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines from School to Post Graduation level enabling certification or grant of credits for degree. Up to 40% credit transfer is available for SWAYAM courses. Around 35 Lakh students enrol for the SWAYAM courses every Semester.
- V. Facilitating State Governments to achieve equity, access, and excellence in higher education, through the Rastriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) / Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme.
- VI. Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students

- VII. 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 in Indian Language, to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

The States/UTs-wise GER, as per AISHE, 2021-22(Provisional) at the link https://www.education.gov.in/parl_ques. The National Education policy offers opportunities for States with higher GER, to leverage the provisions such as Graded Autonomy for their institutions, aligning courses for Skill enhancement and greater employability of their students, accreditation of their Institutions for ODL, providing Multiple Entry and Exit options for students to choose their own learning trajectory, enhance online education capabilities, etc, to provide for more access and inclusivity for students of their States.
