

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1311
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2019

Foreign Students

1311. DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

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

- (a) the number of foreign students from different countries enrolled to study in different Indian Universities during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any criteria for granting VISA to these foreign students and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any scheme for encouraging the institutes/universities for enrolling more foreign students in their courses and for upgrading the standard of these institutes/universities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(**SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'**)

(a): The year-wise details of number of foreign students enrolled to study in different Indian Universities, as per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) (based on actual responses) are tabulated as under:

Year	Total Number of Foreign Students
2015-16	45424
2016-17	47575
2017-18	46144
2018-19	47427

(b): Information is being collected.

(c): Government of India has launched a flagship scheme viz. Study in India, in the year 2018, with the objective of increasing the flow of inbound foreign students to

India and making India a preferred destination/hub for Higher Education by way of brand building, social media campaigns etc. Under this programme, following components are introduced to encourage the institutes/universities for enrolling more foreign students in their courses:

- i. Identification of target 30+ countries for branding in initial phase
- ii. Selection of partner institutions on the basis of grading given by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) (3.26+) and ranking under National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)
- iii. Creation of a dedicated web portal www.studyindia.gov.in
- iv. Setting up of call centre support
- v. Preparatory work for launch of a Mobile App
- vi. Systematic branding
- vii. Undertaking of social media and offline advertisements campaigns
- viii. Fee waivers ranging from 100% to 25%
- ix. Adequate scholarships to meritorious students through Champion Services Sector Scheme
- x. Conduct of event management in the target countries
- xi. Conduct of Webinars
- xii. Setting up of Hostels of International Standards

Apart from this, there are 10% supernumerary seats created in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and 15% for National Institutes of Technology (NITs) for foreign students. The NITs admit students through the Direct Admission of Students Abroad (DASA) scheme. The University Grants Commission (UGC) encourages the institutes/Universities for enrolling more foreign students in their courses for upgrading the standard of these institutes/universities. The Central Government and the UGC are taking various measures to improve quality of higher education by way of taking several initiatives so as to automatically attract foreign students to study in India. The UGC undertakes maintenance of standards in teaching, research and quality assurance in Universities, Deemed to be Universities and Colleges through framing and notifying regulations, schemes and disbursing grants to the eligible institutions. The UGC has notified several regulations with a view to sustain and improve the quality of higher education and to undertake academic reforms.

Moreover, one of the recent and prominent initiatives of Government of India is declaration of Educational Institutions as **Institutions of Eminence (IoE)** to provide world class education to the Indian Students within the country. Twenty Institutions have been recommended for status of 'Institutions of Eminence (IOE). IOE scheme has been launched in order to implement the commitment of the Government to empower the Higher Educational Institutions and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions. It is expected that the above selected Institutions will come up in top 500 of the world ranking in 10 years and in top 100 of the world ranking eventually. To achieve the top world ranking, these Institutions shall be provided with greater autonomy viz. to admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students; to recruit foreign faculty upto 25% of faculty strength; to offer online courses upto 20% of its programmes; to enter into academic collaboration with top 500 in the world ranking Institutions without permission of University Grants Commission; free to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction; flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree; complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, etc. In case of the private institutions proposed as IOE, there will be no financial support, but they will be entitled for more autonomy as a special category Deemed University.
