

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2020**

Access to Higher Education by Students

4707. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:

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

- (a) the percentage of students having access to higher education in the country;
- (b) the number of States which have better access to higher education than the national average;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to improve the quality of higher education and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to improve students enrolment in higher education; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to unify the curriculum of higher education throughout the country, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2018-19 the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in the age group 18-23 years is 26.3. There are 18 States/UTs having better GER as compared to the national average of 26.3.

(c) & (d): In order to increase the enrolment in higher educational institutions, various measures have been taken by Government which includes issuing of new UGC regulation for Open and Distance Learning that allows entry of reputed institutions to offer education on the distance mode. Using of ICT technology- SWAYAM portal to reach out of people and allow them to secure good quality education. Encouraging opening of institutions by State Governments through the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which aims to achieve equity, access and excellence in higher education. The scheme supports components such as upgrading autonomous colleges to universities, clustering colleges to establish a university, setting up of new professional colleges in un-served and underserved areas as well as providing infrastructure grants to universities and colleges to scale up capacity. More scholarship programmes to supplement the cost of education. Moreover, Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) has been established under the Companies Act, 2013 to leverage funds from market to finance improvement in infrastructure in top institutions of education.

(e): No such proposal is under consideration.
