

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2360
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

Virtual Universities

2360. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:
SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:
SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish a number of virtual universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the desired gross enrolment ratio in higher education as envisaged in National Education Policy?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b) In order to promote Online Education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified necessary regulation, which facilitates the Universities to offer full-fledged Online Program. The UGC has also notified Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021 which allows upto 40% of the total courses being offered in a particular programme in a semester through the online learning courses offered through SWAYAM Platform.

(c) Several measures have been taken by the Government to increase the enrolment in higher educational institutions, which inter-alia include opening of more centrally funded institution, encouraging opening of institutions by State Governments through the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme, scholarship programmes to supplement the cost of education, use of ICT technology-SWAYAM portal to reach out to people and allow them to secure good quality education. As a result of the efforts made, the Gross enrolment Ratio (GER) has increased over the years, from 24.3% in 2014-2015 to 27.1% in 2019-2020.
