

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 259
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022**

Reservation in Ph.D Programmes at IITs

259. SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether students from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities have significantly poor representation and acceptance rate in Ph.D programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years and the current year, course and category-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SH. DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.259 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022 REGARDING “RESERVATION IN Ph.D PROGRAMMES AT IITs” RAISED BY SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA, HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a) to (b): The details of the application received, accepted and acceptance rate of the candidates from the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities in Ph.D programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are as under:-

Year	SC			ST			TOTAL (ALL CATEGORIES)		
	Applications received	Applications accepted	%	Applications received	Applications accepted	%	Applications received	Applications accepted	%
2016-17	12416	413	3.33	2242	92	4.10	114748	4372	3.81
2017-18	12794	427	3.34	2175	97	4.46	108526	4803	4.43
2018-19	15397	468	3.04	2787	106	3.80	127478	5292	4.15
2019-20	16197	524	3.24	3302	139	4.21	134338	5868	4.37
2020-21	21581	660	3.06	4572	154	3.37	182763	6521	3.57
2021-22	19603	605	3.09	3805	145	3.81	166808	6016	3.61

Some of the reasons for poor representation and acceptance rate in PhD Programmes can be attributed to: (i) High level attrition due to better employment opportunities; (ii) Family reasons for earning after graduation; (iii) Priority towards management and allied subjects by Engineering Graduates; (iv) Self-employment after graduation with soft loan opportunities (Start-ups); (v) Higher salary/income on employment after Graduation vis-a-vis lesser fellowship/scholarship amount for pursuing research programmes etc.

(c): IITs are autonomous institutes governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and the Statutes framed there under from time to time. Government has mandated IITs to comply with the statutory provisions of the Central Education Institutes (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, as amended from

time to time, for admission of reserved category candidates to various programmes including PhD. IITs duly follow guidelines, statutes, norms and directions issued by Central Government. IITs have taken various steps to fill up the PhD seats for SC/ST Students that include (i) Adherence of guidelines for implementation of reservation policy of the Government; (ii) Age relaxation upto 5 years; (iii) Relaxation in minimum qualifying marks; (iv) Exemption of tuition fee to SC/ST students; (v) Subsidized application fee; (vi) apart from Tuition fee waiver, assistant-ship is extended to SC/ST scholars of the Institute for the sixth year of their PhD programme to ensure that the students do not drop out due to lack of financial resources; (vii) More PhD applicants are shortlisted against the number of reserved category seats available for PhD admission to ensure that enough applicants are available for admission under reserved categories; (viii) wide publicity to attract more applications on various platforms including social media, newspapers, websites, etc.
