

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4088  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022**

**Participation of Minority Communities in Higher Education**

**4088. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), only 7.55 per cent of students in higher education are from minority communities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to analyse the reasons for lack of participation of minority communities in higher education and efforts made/being made to rectify the same; and
- (d) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government to ensure that minority educational institutions has the necessary infrastructure to deliver good quality online education during the pandemic and access to online education to minority students?

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

- (a) & (b) As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20, out of the total students enrolled in Higher Education at various levels (UG, PG, M.Phil & Ph.D), 7.76% are from Minority communities viz. Muslims, Buddhists, Jains, Christians, Sikhs and Parsis.
- (c) The enrolment of students from Minority communities has increased significantly from 21,83,184 (as per AISHE 2014-15) to 29,88,610 (as per AISHE 2019-20), an increase of 36.9%. The National Education Policy 2020 is also emphasizing on Equitable and Inclusive Education by focusing on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which includes students from minorities communities also.  
  
Government is encouraging Minority students through Scholarships/Fellowships Schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs, such as 'Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students (MANF)' to provide financial assistance to selected candidates belonging to Minority Communities viz. Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Sikh and Parsi, for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D research on full time/regular basis, Merit-cum-Mean based Scholarship Scheme for pursuing technical and professional courses, Padho Pardesh- Interest Subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies and Educational Loan Scheme of National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC).
- (d) Government has also taken several steps for good quality Distance and Online education which include issuing of new UGC regulation for Open and Distance Learning that allows entry of reputed institutions to offer education on the distance mode, using ICT mode through - SWAYAM portal to reach out of people and allow them to secure good quality education, a digital initiative- SWAYAM PRABHA channels and E-PG Pathshala etc.

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