

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5074
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th APRIL, 2022**

Public Higher Education Institutes

5074. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total percentage of students belonging to minority communities currently enrolled in Public Higher Educational Institutes in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has identified key problem areas in its own programmes that must be addressed to improve the access to higher education amongst minorities;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve access to higher education; and
- (d) whether the Government plans on extending the number of educational schemes available to minorities for higher education and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a): As per All India Survey on Higher Education for the year 2019-20, out of 1.65 crore students enrolled in public higher education institutions, more than 12.28 lakh students belong to minority communities.
- (b) to (d): 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. The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements several schemes for educational empowerment of students/ beneficiaries belonging to six notified minority communities, namely, Christian, Sikh, Muslim, Buddhist, Jain and Zoroastrian (Parsi) students, such as post matric scholarship scheme for eligible minority students studying in Class 11 to PhD level, Merit-cum-Mean Based scholarship scheme for pursuing professional and technical courses, 'Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority

Students (MANF)' to provide financial assistance for pursuing M. Phil/ Ph.D research on full time/regular basis, PadhoPardesh- Interest Subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies and Educational Loan Scheme of National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC). The Ministry of Minority Affairs is also implementing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), with the objective of improving socio-economic condition and basic amenities in identified Minority Concentrated Areas (MCAs) mainly through infrastructure support. Education is amongst the priority sectors wherein the projects for School level and Higher Education are approved so as to increase access to education in the identified areas. In addition, under Skill Sector additional infrastructure for existing ITIs and support to Polytechnics have been approved.

The Ministry of Education is also offering scholarships to students for pursuing higher education, including students from minority communities. 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
