

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1043**  
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

**ADMISSION IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES AND HEIS**

**1043 SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the UGC's decision to offer admissions twice a year in Indian universities and higher education institutes (HEIs), on the lines of foreign universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and estimated impact of the decision along with the advantages and shortcomings of the proposal;
- (c) whether the Government has evaluated the existing resources, infrastructural facilities, and support services in Indian Universities and HEIs to accommodate the new bi-annual admission system;
- (d) if so, the details and measures initiated to improve the resources, infrastructure, and support systems and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government is planning to enhance Indian HEIs' international collaborations and student exchange programs under the bi-annual admission system; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (f): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 acknowledges that as India moves towards becoming a knowledge economy and society, more and more young Indians are likely to aspire for higher education. The policy also envisions to achieve 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education, by 2035.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been established under the UGC Act, 1956 for the co-ordination and determination of standards in Universities. As per the information received from the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission in its 580<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 has approved the policy of allowing Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to admit students twice a year, in July/August and January/February. However, admitting students twice a year is optional for the HEIs, depending on their preparedness to handle such biannual admissions. Willing HEIs have to carefully plan to admit students twice a year, with the approval of the institutional statutory bodies, based on the availability of infrastructure, teaching resources, and support systems. The mode of admission process, quality of education, access to support systems and adherence to the academic calendar have to be the same for all the students, regardless of the cycle in which they are admitted.

This aims to increase GER, improve access to higher education, provide more flexibility for both students and HEIs, make better use of infrastructure, attract international students, and foster collaboration with Foreign Universities.

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