

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2235
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024**

Central Universities in States

†2235 Shri Rajesh Ranjan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the availability of Central Universities in the States is negligible in proportion to their population in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish Central Universities in every State in proportion to its population;
- (c) if so, the details thereof,
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating establishing a Central University in Kosi Seemanchal Purnia, the largest area of the State of Bihar; and
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Presently, there are 48 Central Universities under the administrative control of Ministry of Education. Apart from this, various Ministries have also established their domain specific Central University. The Central Universities are envisaged to function more as pace setter institutions to provide academic leadership to other institutions in the region; not necessarily in proportion to population or as per regional aspiration. One Central University has been established each in States which did not have any Central Universities. Now, there is at least one Central University in all the states except Goa. Following 12th Five year plan (2012-17), the thrust is on consolidation of the higher education system. Expansion was to be mainly done by scaling up capacity of the existing institutions in place of setting up new institutions. Moreover, 'Education' being a concurrent subject, the State Governments are also taking various initiatives to provide greater access to higher education in their respective States.

(d) to (e): Bihar already has four Central Universities namely Central University of South Bihar, Gaya; Mahatama Gandhi Central University, Motihari; Nalanda University, Nalanda and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur. However, the PM Package for Bihar, 2015 inter-alia provides for establishment of a new Central university near Bhagalpur at the historic site of Vikramshila. There is no proposal under consideration of this Ministry to establish a Central University in Kosi Seemanchal Purnia region of Bihar.
