

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.166

ANSWERED ON 25/11/2024

Quality Education in HEIs

166 Shri Ajay Kumar Mandal:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and status of higher educational institutions in Bihar in proportion to population of the State;
- (b) whether the Government grants permission and provides assistance to students for pursuing higher education abroad;
- (c) if so, the number of children provided financial assistance along with the amount of assistance, course-wise, country-wise and institution-wise;
- (d) whether it is true that every year lakhs of children migrated to foreign countries for pursuing higher education;
- (e) if so, the details of the initiatives taken by the Government to prevent such migration and provide quality education to such children within the country;
- (f) whether the Government proposed to set up Vikramshila University in Bhagalpur district of Bihar under the PM package to attract Indian and foreign students and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed and the academic year from which education is likely to be imparted in the proposed university?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a): As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22, Bihar has 1,444 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as registered in AISHE 2021-22 comprising 37 universities, 1,092 colleges and 315 standalone institutions. The total projected population (based on Census 2011) of Bihar in the age group of 18-23 years is 15,374,000.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MTA) and Ministry of Science and Technology provide assistance to Indian students for higher education abroad. Moreover, based on requests received from friendly foreign countries/institutions, the Ministry of Education disseminates information on scholarships offered by such donor countries for Indian students of all the States and Union Territories to study abroad. As per information received from the MSJE and the MTA, in the year 2023-24, 125 students were selected for the National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students and an expenditure of Rs. 88.56 crore was incurred as scholarship; and the National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe Students was provided to 65 students and Rs. 7 crore was given as scholarship.

(d) The Bureau of Immigration (BoI), Ministry of Home Affairs captures the data of Indians going abroad for higher education on the basis of their verbal disclosure at the time of immigration clearance, or the type of visa obtained for the destination country. As per information received from the BoI, in the year 2023, the number of Indian nationals who

have mentioned their purpose of visit as “STUDENT” during departure was nearly 8.95 lakhs.

(e): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 advocates Indian HEIs to attain the goal of global quality standards. It further states that top universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. In this regard, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued enabling Regulations to facilitate establishment of campuses of Foreign Higher Institutions (FHEIs) in India. The regulations are available at <https://fhei.ugc.ac.in/Downloads/Regulations.pdf>.
- The UGC has also issued Regulations to enable Indian Institutions to collaborate with FHEIs to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes. The regulation may be accessed at https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4555806_UGC-Acad-Collab-Regulations.pdf.
- World-Class Foreign Universities and Institutions have been allowed to establish their campus in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) and offer courses in Financial Management, FinTech, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Foreign Universities and Institutions can set up their Branch Campuses in GIFT City as per the criteria and standards laid down in the International Financial Services Centers Authority (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centers) Regulations, 2022. (weblink: <https://ifsca.gov.in/Document/Legal/ifsca-ibc-and-oec-regulations-202213102022113639.pdf>).
- Two universities, namely, Deakin University and University of Wollongong from Australia have established their campus in GIFT City. The first batch of Deakin University commenced on 3rd July, 2024. The admissions for University of Wollongong’s first batch are still open.
- A Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued to the University of Southampton (UoS), UK, allowing them to establish their first-ever campus in India. UoS is ranked among the top 100 Higher Educational Institutions globally.

(f) & (g): The PM Package for Bihar, 2015 inter-alia provides for establishment of a new Central University near Bhagalpur at the historic site of Vikramshila University.

The State Government has to provide suitable land free of cost and free from all encumbrances for the proposed University. This Ministry requested the State Govt of Bihar in the year 2015 to provide suitable site of 500 Acre. However, considering the request of the State Govt, it was decided that the State Govt may provide 200 Acres of land to begin with and identify another 300 Acres for future expansion. Thereafter, the sites offered by the State Govt of Bihar were visited in February 2022 by the Site Selection Committee (SSC) of this Ministry. However, the sites were not found suitable as the sites were flood prone, away from the ancient site and not easily accessible. In the year 2024, the Government of Bihar offered another site at Malakpur and Antichak in Kahalgaon measuring about 205.05 Acre for the proposed University which has been accepted by this Ministry. Based on the details, the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi has been entrusted the work to prepare the Detailed Project Report for the University.
