

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3396
ANSWERED ON-16/12/2024

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO IN HIGHER EDUCATION

3396. Shri T R Baalu:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several States are unable to achieve even 20 per cent of the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education and the GER for girls is also worse in these States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for very poor GER in higher education even after 77 years of Independence; and
- (d) the corrective steps/action being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d) As per AISHE 2022-23(provisional), National Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is 29.5. There are only four States with GER of less than 20. The State-wise total and female GER, is available at https://www.education.gov.in/parl_ques .

Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. Various schemes/ projects/ programmes run by the Ministry have been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes, including providing greater access to women. The Central Government has taken various measures to promote higher education among the students across the nation including women, such as fee reductions, establishment of more institutes, scholarships, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education.

Government is implementing various Scholarships and Fellowships for providing financial assistance to students of SC/ST/OBC and Minorities, details of which are available in the following websites:

Sl. No	Ministry/Department	Website links
1.	Department of Higher Education	https://www.education.gov.in/scholarships_education_loan
2.	University Grants Commission	https://frg.ugc.ac.in
3.	All India Council for Technical Education	https://www.aicte-india.org/bureaus/rifd/Scholarship-Schemes
4.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	https://socialjustice.gov.in/scheme-cat
5.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx
6.	Ministry of Minority Affairs	https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=2&ls_id=669&lid=825

Education is in Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States. The States and Centre endeavour to uplift the educational status of the students of the country, especially the disadvantaged communities. Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include: -

i. As per the reservation policy of Government of India, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 was notified in January, 2007, wherein it has been stipulated that 15% of seats are reserved for SC students, 7.5% for ST students, and 27% seats for OBC students in admission in Central Educational Institutions. Instructions have also been issued to the Higher Educational Institutions to ensure that reservation-related provisions of the Act passed by Parliament are implemented by all educational institutions in letter and spirit.

ii. Opening of more HEIs:- The number of Universities/University level Institutions registered under AISHE have increased to 1213 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 760 in 2014-15 and number of Colleges have increased to 46,624 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 38,498 in 2014-15.

iii. Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students and underserved regions.

iv. Allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by University Grants Commission (UGC) to offer full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes based on quality parameters.

v. Providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well Re-entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory.

vi. Providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners through Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform, which provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines.

vii. Conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, to facilitate students and making available Text Books in Indian Languages to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

As per National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, aims at increasing the higher education GER to 50% by 2035. Initiatives of the Government has resulted in increase of GER to 29.5 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 23.7 in 2014-15.
