

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1627
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025**

Discrimination against Foreign Students

1627. Shri Anto Antony:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the measure taken by the Government to prevent discrimination against foreign students in Indian universities;
- (b) whether any specific policies are in place to ensure the mental well-being of foreign students;
- (c) the initiative taken by the Government to integrate foreign students into the social and academic environment of Indian universities;
- (d) the number of cases of suicide involving foreign students have been reported in Indian universities in the last ten years;
- (e) the number of complaints of discrimination or harassment of foreign students have been registered in Indian universities during the last ten years;
- (f) whether the Indian universities are having any dedicated grievance redressal mechanisms for foreign students; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): Government of India is proactively taking measures to address the grievances of all the students including foreign students, studying in Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). University Grants Commission (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations 2023 provide framework for redressal of grievances of students enrolled in any institution and a mechanism thereto. As per the Regulations:

- i. Each Institution shall constitute such number of Students' Grievance Redressal Committees (SGRC), as may be required to consider the grievances of the students. The complaint from any grievant student will be addressed to the Chairperson of SGRC.
- ii. Each University shall appoint Ombudsperson for redressal of grievances of students of the University and Colleges/Institutions affiliated with the University.

- iii. The regulations also lay down detailed procedure to be adopted by Ombudsperson and SGRC for redressal of the grievances reported.

In line with the vision of NEP 2020 for Internationalisation of Education, University Grant Commission has issued instructions in 2021 for establishment of an Office for International Affairs in each University. The Office for International Affairs is inter-alia responsible for undertaking activities such as:

- i. To coordinate all matters relating to welcoming and supporting foreign students
- ii. To disseminate information related to admission process among prospective foreign students
- iii. To address the grievances of foreign students in all matters
- iv. To facilitate networking with fellow students
- v. To extend all possible help to the foreign students to adapt to the new cultural environment and make their stay in India comfortable and enriching.

The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes on physical, psychological, and emotional well-being of students in HEIs. To achieve this, the government has introduced various measures, including the **Manodarpan** initiative, which provides psychosocial support to students, families, and teachers.

The Ministry of Education has circulated a broad framework in 2023 for emotional and mental well being of students in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) with request to take proactive measures to incorporate the same in the institutional functioning and instil a feeling of confidence in the student community.

Further, with an aim to promote mental well-being in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and address issues like stress, peer pressure and depression, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has released “**Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Students’ Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well Being at Higher Educational Institutions of India**” in April 2023.
