

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1236
ANSWERED ON – 08/12/2025

Complaints against Private Universities/Institutes and Colleges

1236. Shri Sudama Prasad:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the persistent low Gross Enrolment Ratio especially among rural and marginalised groups especially women in Bihar and Assam where less than 5 per cent complete higher education, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to tackle the quality gap created by mass proliferation of low standard private colleges/universities and ensure meaningful access rather than hollow numerical growth;
- (c) the number of complaints received by the Government from students against private universities/institutes/colleges regarding academic quality, exorbitant fees and other academic related issues during the last five years, year and State-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaints from SC/ST/OBC/PWD students regarding discrimination and harassment based on caste and disability from private universities/institutes/colleges during the last five years and if so, the details of college/university/institute and year/State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per the data of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for the year 2022-23 (provisional), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at national level for all Categories, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) is 29.5, 27.3 and 23.5 respectively. The Female GER in Bihar and Assam stands at 19.9 and 17.8 respectively, which exceeds the Male GER in both states. The category wise and Gender wise GER for Assam, Bihar and India are given in table below:

State/UTs	All Categories		
	Male	Female	Total
Assam	17.5	19.9	18.7
Bihar	16.1	17.8	16.9
All-India	28.9	30.2	29.5

(b) to (d): Education is in Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. As such, Private Universities are established by the Act of respective State Legislature. After receipt of a copy of the Act and Notification issued by the State Government, University Grants Commission (UGC) includes the name of Private Universities under Section 2(f) of UGC Act

1956. These Universities are governed by the State Governments as per their respective Act, Statutes, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations. Such universities are also required to follow the relevant UGC Regulations and Guidelines issued from time to time for maintenance of standards of higher education.

The complaints received from the students regarding academic quality, exorbitant fees and other academic related issues are sent to the concerned State Government/University for redressal. The fee in State Private Universities is regulated as per the provisions of their Act/Statutes/Rule/Regulation or State Government policy.

The complaints received from SC/ST/OBC/PWD students regarding discrimination or harassment based on caste or disability are dealt by UGC under the UGC (Prevention of Caste-Based Discrimination) Regulations, 2012 and relevant UGC Guidelines for persons with disabilities. In general, all complaints are examined and forwarded to the concerned University/College for necessary action and compliance. Institutions are required to submit action-taken reports, ensure non-discrimination and maintain a mechanism for redressing grievances of students belonging to SC/ST/OBC/PWD.

The list of fake universities, updated from time-to-time, is available on the website of the University Grants Commission (UGC) at <https://www.ugc.gov.in/universitydetails/Fakeuniversity>. Currently, 24 Institutions figure in the list.

Apart from issuing public Notices for general awareness through social media and UGC website for cautioning the general public, students, parents and other stakeholder, the following steps have also been taken by the UGC/Government against such fake universities:

- i. The Government as well as the UGC have requested the Chief Secretaries of all State/UT Governments to take appropriate action against those involved in defrauding and cheating students by misrepresenting themselves as “Universities”, awarding degrees and using the word “University” with their name.
- ii. UGC also writes letter to the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of all the States & UTs to inform all school education boards in their respective States to remain vigilant and to advise the students to verify the credentials of Higher Education Institutions through the Official website of UGC before applying for admission.
- iii. The UGC issues Show Causes Notice/Warning Notice/Letter to the respective self-styled educational institution that is functioning in violation of UGC Regulations and awarding invalid degrees and directs them to stop the illegal activities and submit the compliance report to UGC.
- iv. Writes letter to the respective State Governments informing them about the illegal activities of the self-styled institution and request them to take appropriate action against it under intimation to UGC.
- v. In spite of the UGC directions, if that self-styled institution does not follow the UGC directions or does not submit the compliance report within the stipulated time, its name is included in the UGC list of fake Universities. The updated list of fake universities is also uploaded on the UGC website.
- vi. FIRs have been lodged against several self-styled institutions/universities.
- vii. Show Causes Notices/Warning Notices have also been issued to the unauthorized institutes awarding invalid degrees.

As a result, 12 fake universities have been closed since 2014.
