

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1365**  
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

**ENROLMENT IN POST-GRADUATE AND PH.D. PROGRAMMES**

1365. SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students enrolled in post-graduate and Ph.D. programmes across all Central Universities particularly in institutions such as IITs, IIMs and IISc, year-wise from the academic session 2020-21 to 2024-25 and category-wise (SC, ST, OBC and EWS);
- (b) whether there is a persistent decline in the enrolment and completion rates of SC, ST and OBC students in postgraduate and doctoral programmes and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total number of complaints/cases registered during the last five years regarding caste-based discrimination, harassment or humiliation faced by SC, ST and OBC students in Central Universities and centrally-funded institutions;
- (d) the total number of suicides and unnatural deaths of students reported in Central Universities and centrally-funded institutions during the last five years; and
- (e) the current status of implementation of the UGC (Promotion of Equity) Regulations across all campuses in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e): To portray the status of higher education in the country, Ministry of Education conducts annual All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) and as per the available AISHE data, there has been increase in the enrolment of SC, ST and OBC students for PG and PhD level in CUs, IIMs, IITs, IISc from 2020-21.

NEP 2020 enshrines for seamless student mobility and flexibility in terms of academic pathways by means of multiple entry and exit facility in academic programs offered in higher educational institutions. In line with tenets of NEP 2020, CFHEIs have also initiated a number of facilitative measures for students which include appointment of advisors to monitor academic progress of students, provision of additional classes for academically weaker students, peer assisted learning, counselling to distressed students, psychological motivation and extra-curricular activities.

Students Welfare centres have also been established in CHEIs particularly in IITs to promote student well-being through volunteer programmes, student counselling/training sessions and grievance redressal mechanisms. Mental health professionals including counsellors, psychiatrists and psychometricians have also been engaged to provide in person counselling and support to students along with utilisation of professional online counselling platforms.

Central Universities and Centrally funded institutions being autonomous institutions have also established their institution-specific mechanism to address grievances and prevent

discrimination against any class of students. The UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations 2012 is a regulation issued by UGC to prevent discrimination in higher education institutions based on caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender, or disability. The regulations mandate institutions to establish mechanisms like an Anti-Discrimination Officer or Equal Opportunity Cell to address complaints and promote an equitable campus environment, including awareness programs and grievance redressal. Equal Opportunity Cell are functional in Central Universities.

IIMs are self-reliant Institutes of National Importance governed by the provisions of IIM Act, Rules and Regulations. As per the regulations and their own initiative, IIMs have constituted Committees and Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) to ensure promotion of equity. The Centrally funded technical institutes such as IITs, NITs, IIITs etc are autonomous institutes governed by their respective acts of the Parliament and Anti-Ragging mechanisms, SC/ST/OBC Cell, and Internal Complaints Committee to address student grievances are already operational in these institutes.

Further, University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023 to provide adequate opportunities for redressal of grievances of students admitted in higher education institutions. The Regulations provide for constitution of Students Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC) and appointment of Ombudsperson for handling complaints of discrimination of students from the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Women, Minorities or persons with disabilities categories.

To address the issue of suicide, the Government is taking multi-pronged measures and provides psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being to avoid incidences of suicide. An initiative of Ministry of Education, *Manodarpan*, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being such as National toll-free helpline that has been extending guidance to callers through trained counsellor; and live interactive sessions '*Sahyog*' and Webinars '*Paricharcha*' that are organized regularly to create awareness about the importance of mental health among all stakeholders, students in all States/UTs.

UGC issued advisory to HEIs on 06.01.2023 regarding the National Suicide Prevention Strategy framed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. UGC has also issued Guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Student's Health, Welfare, Psychological and Emotional Well-being at HEIs on 13.04.2023. The Ministry on 10.07.2023 has also circulated a broad framework 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 instill a feeling of confidence in the student community. These guidelines lay emphasis inter alia on sports, yoga, meditation etc. to address the wellbeing and mental health concerns. HEIs are promoting the integration of yoga in the academic life on campus by introducing yearlong yoga event calendars, dedicated courses on yoga etc.

Department of Higher Education has initiated the Integrated approach for Promoting Positive Mental Health, Resilience, and Wellbeing under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme to empower faculty to address student mental health concerns for early intervention.

Comprehensive analysis of the data related to the accidental deaths and suicides in the country is published in the yearly Accidental Death & Suicide in India (ADSI) reports by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). Year wise and State wise details of student suicides are available in the ADSI reports which are accessible at: <https://ncrb.gov.in/accidental-deaths-suicides-in-india-year-wise.html>.

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