

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 416
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

SC/ST/OBC Students Enrolment in Private HEIs

416. Dr. D Ravi Kumar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the current enrolment levels of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) students in private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including Institutions of Eminence (IoEs), in light of recent All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2022-23 data indicating persistent under-representation of SC/ST students in private universities;

(b) if so, the details of seats allocated and actual enrolment of SC/ST/OBC students in private HEIs and IoEs that have received financial or policy support from the Government, institution-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce a monitoring, disclosure or compliance mechanism linked to grants, scholarships or IoE status to ensure adherence to reservation, equity and inclusion norms and if so, the details and the timelines thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Education being in the Concurrent List, increasing participation of all communities in 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 Government has notified the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, wherein reservation of seats in Central Educational Institutions is implemented, which is 15%, 7.5% and 27% of the annual permitted strength in each branch of study or faculty for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) respectively. Central Educational Institutions have also been issued

instructions in January, 2019 for implementation of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS). Horizontal reservation of 5% for Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD) is also provided.

The Central Government has also 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 to promote access to higher education for students including students from socially disadvantaged groups for all HEIs including eligible Private Institutions.
