

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2363  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.05.2016

**Access to Higher Education**

**2363.** SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that access to higher education of economically poor sections of the country is minimal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any special strategic/planned efforts are being made by the Government to ensure economically poor sections get cent per cent access to higher education;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**A N S W E R**

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)**

(a) to (e): (i) One of the primary objectives of the University Grants Commission (UGC) is to enable the expansion of quality higher education and to provide increasing access to students from all sections of the society. The objective of qualitative expansion is achieved by financing development of the Central Universities, recognition of new State Universities and Colleges and regulation of private and deemed to be universities.

(ii) Higher education in India has grown steadily, reflected in the increase in the number of Universities/University-level Institutions & Colleges. While the number of universities has gone up to 740 from a meagre 20 in 1950, the number of colleges has grown from just 500 in 1950 to as many as 40,160 now.

(iii) Government in the recent past has established a number of Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Indian Institutes of Management and National Institutes of Technology. Government has also set up 5 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, 3 Schools of Planning and Architecture and 5 Indian Institutes of Information Technology. Government has also made efforts to utilize the residual capacity of existing institutions.

(iv) UGC has taken special initiatives with regard to promotion of higher education in the North Eastern region. UGC has launched a special programme called Ishan Uday for improving the GER, promoting higher education and for encouraging children belonging to economically weaker sections of the North Eastern Region (NER). The scheme provides for 10,000 fresh scholarships every year beginning from 2014-15 for General Degree and Technical and Professional courses, including Medical and Para-medical.

(v) There is a Central Sector Scheme which provides full Interest Subsidy for the period of moratorium on educational loans taken by students from economically weaker sections with annual parental income up to Rs.4.5 lakh, from scheduled banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association to pursue Technical/Professional Education Studies in India. The details of the Scheme are available on MHRD website [www.mhrd.gov.in](http://www.mhrd.gov.in).

(vi) There is a Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to meritorious students having annual family income of less than Rs.6 lakh. The details of the Scheme are available on MHRD website [www.mhrd.gov.in](http://www.mhrd.gov.in).

(vii) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has a Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW) Scheme for sons & daughters of parents having annual income of less than Rs.6 lakh from all sources which is mandatory for all AICTE approved technical institutions offering Bachelor programmes, Diploma and Post Diploma programmes. Seats up to a maximum of 5% of sanctioned intake per course shall be available for these admissions. These seats shall be supernumerary in nature and will be available to such courses in an Institute where a minimum of 30% of sanctioned seats in the respective courses are filled up.

(viii) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has stated that the Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme of that Ministry, seeks to provide financial assistance to the EBC students studying at post-matriculation stage having annual family income of Rs.1 lakh. The details of the scheme are available on [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in).

(ix) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has stated that Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies of the Ministry awards interest subsidy to meritorious OBC and EBC students so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad. The details of the scheme are available on [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in).

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