

The Government of India has issued guidelines dated 26th October, 2012 to all States/UTs for implementation of clause (c) of sections 8 and 9 of the RTE Act regarding non-discrimination of children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections in schools, for the State Governments and local authorities to take appropriate steps to ensure that all schools adhere to these guidelines.

Participation of backward and deprived sections in higher education.

‡1751. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing to enhance the participation of country's backward and deprived sections of the society in higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any scheme in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions (CEI) (Reservation in Admissions) Act, 2006, the CEIs are reserving seats for the Scheduled Castes (SCs)/ Scheduled Tribes (STs)/Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to the extent of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively in admissions to every branch of study.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is providing enhanced allocations for its schemes for universities and colleges, namely Remedial Coaching for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer) and Minority students at UG and PG level, Coaching for Entry into Services for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer) and Minority students, and

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Coaching for NET for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer) and Minority Students, that contribute to improving the participation of the backward and the deprived sections of society in higher education.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Cabinet has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Rashtriya Uchattar Siksha Abhiyan for incentivising states to address critical gaps (including equity gaps) in access to higher education,

Gross enrolment ratio in higher education

1752. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gross enrolment ratio for higher education in the country, which stands at 18 per cent, is substantially lower than the global gross enrolment ratio;

(b) whether the ratio has improved during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the measures being adopted by Government to further improve enrolment in higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The GER in higher education in India at the beginning of the Eleventh Five Year Plan was around 12% and which has now increased to 18.8% in 2011-12. However, it is still below the global average of around 29%.

(c) The Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the establishment of one model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts (EBDs) having a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national average. The Government has also approved a new Centrally