

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3087  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2022**

**Need for IITs in rural areas**

**3087 Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:  
Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether IITs are needed in the rural areas also for giving adequate opportunities of quality technical education to the rural youth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a) to (c): Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are established as Institutes of National Importance and governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and the Statutes framed thereunder. From five (5) IITs established till the year 1963, Government has gradually increased the number of IITs to 23 to meet the regional aspirations and the demand for quality education in Science, Engineering and Technology. This has enhanced opportunities to the students across the country including those from rural background to seek higher education from these premier institutions. Besides, admission to Under Graduate (UG) programmes in IITs is made through JEE (Advanced) entrance examination organized at various centres all over India, to enable qualified rural students appear from nearest centre.

In the interest of students including those from rural background, Government has launched Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), which offers interactive course content for clearing doubts

for students from Class 9 to post graduation. The content can be accessed free of cost by anyone, anywhere at any time. Another initiative of the Government called Indian Institute of Technology - Professor Assisted Learning (IIT-PAL) which provides video content in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics prepared by IIT Professors and expert teachers for Class XI and Class XII students aspiring to join IITs and other Institutions. The content is available free of cost on dedicated DTH channels of SWAYAM PRABHA.

Further, IITs are actively participating in the scheme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' (UBA), under which villages are adopted by the institutions. Institutes after identification of technology gaps, work for the development of low cost technological solutions covering various areas such as Sustainable Agriculture, Education, Health, Housing, Better Livelihood, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Drinking Water, Bio-Energy, Afforestation, Skill Development, Digital Literacy etc.

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