

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3857
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022**

Higher education dropout due to language barrier

3857 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) whether Ministry has data on the number of dropouts from higher education institutes due to the students facing a language barrier;
- (b) if so, the details thereof from 2017 till date, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps that has been taken by Government to reduce such dropouts and to reduce the effect of language barrier in higher education?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)**

- (a) to (c) As in the Higher Education sector Students have multiple options and they choose and migrate from one course or programme to another, as such there is no concept of Drop Out in Higher education.

The enrolment in higher Education has increased from 3,66,42,378 in 2017-18 to 3,85,36,359 in 2019-20 as per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE).

The Government has taken various steps like fee reductions, establishment of more institutes, scholarships, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education, etc.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also envisages imparting more programmes in higher education, using mother tongue/local language as medium of instruction, and/or offer programmes bilingually, in order to increase access and Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and also to promote the strength, usage and vibrancy of all Indian Languages. Government has taken several pro-active initiatives to promote Higher Education, such as:-

- i. Permission has been granted by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to 19 Engineering Colleges in 10 States to run 26 programs in 6 Indian Languages.
- ii. Translation of 2744 lectures and validation of 2225 lectures into eight (8) different Indian regional languages has been completed for technical courses.
- iii. 160 Technical Books have also been translated in Regional Languages.

- iv. AICTE has developed a tool called ‘AICTE Translation Automation Artificial Intelligence Tool’ to translate English Language online courses into twelve different languages.
- v. Joint Entrance Examination (Main) and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for Undergraduate Medical Courses conducted in 13 languages.
- vi. To promote flexibility of courses and multiple Entry/Exit, Academic Bank of Credit has been set up and Guidelines on Multiple Entry/Exit have been issued.
- vii. To address the issue of access, regulations have been amended enabling more HEIs to offer online/ODL programmes and also credit of online course component has been increased from 20% to 40% in a degree programme.
