

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 33  
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023**

**Foreign Universities Campuses in the country**

**33. Dr. K. Laxman:**

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to open campuses of Foreign Universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 33 FOR REPLY ON 06.12.2023 REGARDING “FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES CAMPUSES IN THE COUNTRY” ASKED BY DR K LAXMAN:**

(a)-(c): Internationalization of education is one of the key priorities under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. To promote internationalization, NEP 2020 states that high performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in countries abroad, and similarly, top universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.

The Hon’ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2022-23 announced that world-class Foreign Universities and Institutions will be allowed in the Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT City) to offer courses in Financial Management, FinTech, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics free from domestic regulations, except those by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). Foreign Universities and Institutions can set up their Branch Campuses in GIFT City as per the criteria and standards laid down in the IFSCA (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022. The Regulations is available on the website of IFSCA. Deakin University and University of Wollongong from Australia have received in-principle approval from IFSCA to establish their campus in GIFT City.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also issued enabling Regulations to facilitate the establishment of campuses of Foreign Higher Institutions (FHEIs) in India. The UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023 have been issued on 08.11.2023. The Regulations is available on the website of UGC. Eligible Foreign Higher Educational Institutions desiring to set up their campuses in India may apply on the Registration Portal <https://fhei.ugc.ac.in>. The portal was opened on 09.11.2023 after the gazette notification of the regulations.

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भारत सरकार  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग  
राज्य सभा  
तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या-33  
उत्तर देने की तारीख-06/12/2023

देश में विदेशी विश्वविद्यालय परिसर

33 डा. के. लक्ष्मणः

क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या सरकार का देश में विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों के परिसर खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;  
(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और  
(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

उत्तर  
शिक्षा मंत्री  
(श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान)

(क) से (ग): विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

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देश में विदेशी विश्वविद्यालय परिसर के संबंध में माननीय संसद सदस्य डा. के. लक्ष्मण द्वारा दिनांक 06.12.2023 को पूछा जाने वाला राज्य सभा तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 33 के भाग (क) से (ग) के उत्तर में उल्लिखित विवरण

(क) से (ग): राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020 के तहत शिक्षा का अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण प्रमुख प्राथमिकताओं में से एक है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, एनईपी 2020 में कहा गया है कि उच्च प्रदर्शन करने वाले भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों को विदेशों में परिसर स्थापित करने हेतु प्रोत्साहित किया जाएगा और इसी तरह, दुनिया के शीर्ष विश्वविद्यालयों को भारत में संचालन की सुविधा प्रदान की जाएगी।

केंद्रीय बजट 2022-23 में माननीय वित्त मंत्री ने घोषणा की कि गुजरात अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वित्त टेक-सिटी (गिफ्ट सिटी) में विश्व स्तरीय विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों और संस्थानों को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय सेवा केंद्र प्राधिकरण (आईएफएससीए) को छोड़कर, वित्तीय प्रबंधन, फिनटेक, विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, इंजीनियरिंग और गणित में घरेलू नियमों से मुक्त पाठ्यक्रम प्रदान करने की अनुमति दी जाएगी। विदेशी विश्वविद्यालय और संस्थान आईएफएससीए (अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शाखा परिसरों और ऑफशोर शिक्षा केंद्रों की स्थापना और संचालन) विनियम, 2022 में निर्धारित मानदंडों और मानकों के अनुसार गिफ्ट सिटी में अपने शाखा परिसर स्थापित कर सकते हैं। विनियम आईएफएससीए की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध हैं।

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) ने भारत में विदेशी उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों (एफएचईआई) के परिसरों की स्थापना की सुविधा के लिए सक्षम विनियम भी जारी किए हैं। यूजीसी (भारत में विदेशी उच्च शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के परिसरों की स्थापना और संचालन) विनियम 2023 दिनांक 08.11.2023 को जारी किए गए हैं। विनियम यूजीसी की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध हैं। भारत में अपना परिसर स्थापित करने के इच्छुक पात्र विदेशी उच्च शिक्षण संस्थान पंजीकरण पोर्टल <https://fhei.ugc.ac.in> पर आवेदन कर सकते हैं। विनियमों की गजट अधिसूचना के बाद दिनांक 09.11.2023 को पोर्टल खोला गया था।

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DR. K. LAXMAN: Sir, at the outset, I would like to welcome the decision of the Government to internationalize education as per NEP 2020. Many of our students opt to go overseas to seek high quality education. We know about the financial burden that it puts on parents. Later, students never come back. This causes huge loss to the Indian economy as also brain drain. But, what would be the challenges faced in setting up foreign universities because some feel it will harm the Indian education system and also result in the commercialization of education? What are the preventive steps taken by the Government to ensure that the fee structure as also the admission process is reasonable and transparent?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, talking about the National Education Policy 2020, the Expert Group has recommended internationalization of our education system, as rightly pointed out by the hon. Member. More foreign students should come to India and more Indian students should get exposure to global institutions. Today, our students are compelled to go outside. A lot of foreign students are coming to India. To accelerate that, to make it manifold, NEP has recommended internationalization of education. Now foreign institutions will come to India. Already two of them have started their process to open their campuses in the GIFT City of Gujarat. In the last Budget speech, hon. Finance Minister invited global institutions. Two of them have turned up. Recently, the University Grants Commission, in the last month only, has come out with a new set of regulations to invite more foreign institutions. Now the portal is open and a lot of quality institutions are getting registered in that portal. Hon. Member has raised two pertinent issues. One is regarding maintaining the quality of education and the second is regarding the fee structure. These two things are envisioned in the new regulation. Today, we have to spend billions of dollars on our students who are going out of country. Now there will be global standards and they will tie up with the local university also. We are inviting foreign universities with dual degree and tuning of courses. The UGC will have a Committee to scrutinise the applications to look into the minimum regulatory mechanism because we have to give autonomy to institutions. Gradually, there is a consensus among the academia and the policy makers of our country that we have to give autonomy to academia and institutions so that more institutions of global standards can come. The Government of India is in the right direction to invite them. I am happy to inform this august House, through you, that two of our IITs are going to open their overseas campuses. One is IIT, Delhi which is opening its campus in Abu Dhabi and the other one is IIT, Chennai which is opening its campus in Zanzibar to

look after the needs of African countries. This is not going to be a one-way mechanism. With international mechanism, this is going to be a two-way mechanism.

DR. K. LAXMAN: Is there any proposal by the Government to encourage, collaborate and partner with existing Indian institutions, which will help to mitigate competition and ensure that the benefits of foreign universities are shared with the Indian institutions and the Indian students?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, this is an old practice and tradition of our Indian institutions. Almost all IITs, NIITs and all reputed institutions run by the Union Government and the respective State Governments have global tie up with their counterparts. With this NEP and the focussed concept of internationalisation, it will get an accelerating effect.

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, we all know that a few days back, a circular has gone to all the universities and colleges from the UGC that there should be a selfie stand with the photograph of our respected Prime Minister in the background. Through you, with all humility, I would like to know from the learned Minister as per which rule or guideline of the UGC, this could be done. As is apparent, this seems to be nothing but a political publicity before the 2024 elections.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Hon. Member's question has nothing to do with this Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Keep in mind that I had been the Governor of the State of West Bengal.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I know that, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Santanu Sen has raised the issue ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I cannot forget the scene when you took the constitutional responsibility on the very first day of this present Government. This country can never forget your position. With due respect, Sir, this is a separate question. I am proud of my Prime Minister. This country is proud of hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. This is my answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: President, Prime Minister and constitutional functionaries belong to the nation. They represent the nation as much as a Chief Minister represents a State. And, therefore, I will appeal to all sections of the House that when it comes to the constitutional functionaries, be at the State level or at the Central level, let our vision be not through politics but in general. Now, Prof. Manoj Jha, it is your subject.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure you will put a pointed question to the hon. Minister. Your time starts now.

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा :** शुक्रिया, सभापति महोदय। सर, माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा एक आग्रह है, एक सवाल है कि foreign universities का आना, campus खोलना एक बहुत सकारात्मक पहल है, लेकिन हमारी शिक्षा व्यवस्था affirmative action के प्रोग्राम पर है, तो foreign universities में Constitutional mandate के हिसाब से affirmative action introduce हो, क्या इसकी व्यवस्था की गयी है?

**श्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान :** सर, ये foreign universities उन देशों के कायदे पर चलेंगी। यहाँ quality education पर फोकस है। हमारे देश में 1,100 public universities हैं, कुछ private universities भी हैं। अभी भी हमारे देश की जो स्टेट एक्ट के अंतर्गत चलने वाली private universities और deemed universities हैं, उनमें affirmative action का form अलग है। धीरे-धीरे विश्व का जो education pattern आजकल बना है, scholarship एक नया instrument बन रहा है। वह भी एक तरीके का affirmative action है। सारी चीजों को एक ही चश्मे से देखना उचित नहीं होगा। देश में quality institutions आये, यह priority है।

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, opening up of foreign universities in India promises global exposure and high-quality education. However, while starting foreign universities, some face challenges, like (i) there could be a drastic drop-out of students from the domestic universities, (ii) very high cost of tuition, (iii) potential cultural misalignment affecting adaptation, (iv) resource allocation concern, (v) risk of educational inequalities, and (vi) rejection of recognition of foreign universities' degrees by Indian companies. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the measures taken by the Government to face all these challenges. Has he taken care of these aspects?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, all these questions are very important but these are uncalled for at this time. We have to face the global challenge. These questions

are there, but the Government is quite competent and the UGC is quite a competent body with its experts and it will look into all these aspects. These are all very premature questions and we should not view everything with a negative prism.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 34, Shri Sant Balbir Singh.