

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2576  
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2024

**Higher education abroad**

**2576 Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha:**

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

- (a) whether Government has details about the students going abroad for higher studies;
- (b) if so, the number of students went abroad during the last three years, country-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is monitoring the number of students returning from abroad after their higher studies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has considered the outpour of bright students to abroad for higher studies and their subsequent migration will lead to a 'brain drain' scenario in future; and
- (f) if so, the policy initiatives taken or proposed to be taken by Government to prevent this?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (f): The Ministry of Education does not maintain data related to Indian students going abroad for higher studies. As per information provided by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI), the number of Indians who disclosed their purpose of visit as STUDY/EDUCATION while going abroad in the last three years is under:

Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of Students	444553	750365	892989

Year wise and countries wise detail is available at **Annexure**.

Higher studies abroad are a matter of individual will and choice. The Government recognizes the reality of a global workplace, especially in an era of knowledge economy. A successful, prosperous, and influential diaspora is viewed as an asset for India. The Government's efforts are also aimed at harnessing the potential of the diaspora, including the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Government of India has undertaken

comprehensive action to ensure high-quality education at every level in India. One of the key aspects of NEP 2020 is “Internationalisation of Education” which aims to establish India as a global destination for education and to promote and share best academic & research practices through interactions among diverse education systems.

In alignment with the vision of NEP 2020 and to make available the campuses of eminent Global Higher Institutes in India, University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued “UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023.” UGC has also issued “UGC (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) Regulations, 2021”, which allows students to do parts of their programmes from both Indian and foreign universities leading to academic and research excellence, as well as mobility of students and faculty.

International Financial Services Centres Authority (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022 have been issued to facilitate the establishment of campuses of world-class foreign universities in GIFT City, Gujarat.

Government of India has also undertaken several initiatives to ensure availability as well as affordability of quality education in the higher education domain through infrastructure upgradation of the institutions, accreditation of institutions and courses, promotion of research & innovation and augmenting the digital initiatives. Some of the initiatives are:

- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)/ Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme provides financial support to State Governments under three components, (i) Enhancing quality and excellence in select state universities, (ii) Infrastructure grants to universities, and (iii) multi-disciplinary education and research universities (MERU).
- PM VidyaLaxmi Scheme aims to provide support to any student getting admission in quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs).
- Promotion of accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) through **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** to ensure quality education.
- To assess the qualitative competence of the programs offered by educational institution from diploma level to post-graduate level by **National Board of Accreditation (NBA)**.
- **8 Research Parks** at premier institutions has been established to serve as hubs for innovation, knowledge creation and have research collaboration with top-rated industries, to enable entrepreneurship and incubation of students and building strong academic linkages.
- Establishment of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) which aims to seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India’s universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)** to encourage research collaboration between top Indian Institutes with the premier foreign institutes;
- **One Nation, One Subscription** initiative to provide centralized access to high-quality academic resources, research papers, and journals to students, researchers, and educators across the country;
- To ensure high quality educational content to every learner through **SWAYAM, SWAYAM Plus etc.**

Further, University Grants Commission (UGC) has also taken several initiatives to enhance the quality of education, including financial support to HEIs. Some of the important initiatives are; Guidelines for Internship/Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program, establishment of Research and Development Cells in HEIs, promoted the concept of Professor of Practice, Accessibility guidelines and standards for Higher Educational Institutions and Universities, started UTSAH Portal (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) to track achievements of NEP 2020, issued Curriculum and Guidelines on Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) 2.0, Malaviya Mission Teachers Training Programme, etc.

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**REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (F) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 2576 FOR 18.12.2024 REGARDING “HIGHER EDUCATION ABROAD” ASKED BY SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA, HON’BLE MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA**

<b>DESTINATION-WISE (COUNTRY) STATISTICS OF INDIAN NATIONALS WHO DISCLOSED THEIR PURPOSE AS STUDY/EDUCATION WHILE GOING ABROAD FOR 2021 TO 2023</b>			
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
AFGHANISTAN	10	27	37
ALAND ISLANDS	2	3	11
ALBANIA	335	57	28
ALGERIA	2	2	2
AMERICAN SAMOA	0	1	8
ANDORRA	12	119	316
ANGOLA	1	9	14
ANGUILLA	2	1	0
ANTARTICA	1	0	2
ANTIGUA AND BARBADOS	8	75	70
ARGENTINA	28	39	37
ARMENIA	2796	1952	1656
ARUBA	7	9	11
AUSTRALIA	8950	59044	78093
AUSTRIA	353	466	597
AZERBAIJAN	35	265	461
BAHAMAS	19	119	189
BAHRAIN	38	122	116
BANGLADESH	10493	17006	20368
BARBADOS	24	64	56
BELARUS	641	695	562
BELGIUM	605	514	535
BELIZE	19	29	58
BENIN	7	1	1
BERMUDA	2	2	3
BHUTAN	0	9	10
BOLIVIA	0	0	2
BOSNIA	7	145	300
BOTSWANA	2	7	5
BOUVET ISLAND	0	0	0
BRAZIL	24	83	98
BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY	1	0	0
BRUNEI	1	26	43

BULGARIA	133	139	205
BURKINA FASO	0	4	4
BURUNDI	0	0	1
CAMBODIA	42	116	181
CAMEROON	28	144	202
CANADA	102688	185955	233532
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS	10	18	64
CAYMAN ISLANDS	3	3	0
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	0	0	1
CHAD	1	6	8
CHILE	10	52	86
CHINA	3	1967	7279
CHRISTMAS ISLANDS	0	3	1
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS	0	1	0
COG(CONGO)	2	5	9
COLOMBIA	4	20	41
COMOROS	0	0	2
CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF)	0	2	1
COSTA RICA	14	9	5
CUBA	0	0	1
CYPRUS	162	726	1477
CZECH	512	673	668
DENMARK	341	488	523
DJIBOUTI	0	1	2
DOMINICA	0	1	0
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	0	1	3
EAST TIMOR (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF)	2	17	21
ECUADOR	0	7	3
EGYPT	519	424	580
EL SALVADOR	0	2	3
ERITREA	5	4	6
ESTONIA	94	54	58
ETHIOPIA	38	14	2
FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINES)	3	11	12
FAROE ISLANDS	0	0	2
FIJI	3	2	3
FINLAND	133	234	449
FRANCE	5293	6406	7484
FRANCE METROPOLITAN	2	2	1
FRENCH GUIANA	0	1	1
FRENCH POLYNESIA	0	2	2
GABON	3	16	12
GAMBIA	2	4	1

GEORGIA	2599	5269	10470
GERMANY	16259	20684	23296
GHANA	14	18	12
GIBRALTAR	4	7	5
GREECE	62	207	124
GREENLAND	1	0	1
GRENADA	16	17	15
GUADELOUPE	0	1	1
GUATEMALA	0	2	2
GUINEA	3	10	6
GUINEA BISSAU	0	1	0
GUYANA	104	145	182
HAITI	3	25	22
HEARD AND MCDONALD ISLANDS	0	4	7
HONDURAS	0	3	4
HONG KONG	198	708	607
HUNGARY	304	389	336
ICELAND	23	47	44
INDONESIA	11	170	259
IRAN	600	1063	1325
IRAQ	65	79	89
IRELAND	4869	6211	8011
ISLE OF MAN	0	5	18
ISRAEL	639	1061	1288
ITALY	3008	3507	3739
IVORY COST	2	2	6
JAMAICA	112	109	81
JAPAN	193	1423	1219
JERSEY	0	9	3
JORDAN	11	37	36
KAZAKHSTAN	5625	8895	10172
KENYA	155	250	357
KIRIBATI	2	5	5
KOREA(DPR)	7	29	25
KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)	631	1005	942
KUWAIT	24	124	150
KYRGYZSTAN	15162	14728	12374
LAOS	3	5	6
LATVIA	537	750	1566
LEBANON	4	6	6
LESOTHO	1	0	0
LIBERIA	3	1	4
LIBYA	1	0	5

LIECHTENSTEIN	1	1	1
LITHUANIA	355	324	286
LUXEMBOURG	53	46	57
MACAU	3	17	37
MACEDONIA	0	1	0
MADAGASCAR	0	1	6
MALAWI	7	27	32
MALAYSIA	567	2453	3437
MALDIVES	384	174	157
MALI	1	3	9
MALTA	222	599	1868
MARSHALL ISLANDS	0	0	2
MARTINIQUE	0	1	1
MAURITANIA	11	27	19
MAURITIUS	827	1503	1837
MAYOTTE	1	0	1
MEXICO	1068	49	48
MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)	0	0	2
MOLDOVA	318	974	434
MONACO	1	5	4
MONGOLIA	1	4	3
MONTENEGRO	6	4	4
MOROCCO	3	5	14
MOZAMBIQUE	0	16	9
MYANMAR	6	22	19
NAMIBIA	10	100	188
NAURU	1	18	36
NEPAL	379	444	531
NETHERLANDS	2006	1901	1938
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	20	15	12
NEUTRAL ZONE	2	0	14
NEW CALEDONIA	0	11	58
NEW ZEALAND	64	1605	6471
NICARAGUA	0	0	3
NIGER	1	1	4
NIGERIA	15	25	24
NIUE ISLAND	0	0	0
NORFOLK ISLAND	1	3	3
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	0	2	1
NORWAY	188	195	159
OMAN	92	151	157
PAKISTAN	66	396	331
PALAU	0	0	0

PALESTINIAN	0	0	1
PANAMA	36	61	21
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	0	4	3
PARAGUAY	2	6	2
PERU	1	7	5
PHILLIPPINES	251	11261	6883
PITCAIRN	0	3	0
POLAND	1046	1443	1639
PORTUGAL	155	163	236
PUERTO RICO	0	3	4
QATAR	325	275	232
REPUBLIC OF CHINA TAIWAN	336	465	707
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA	36	77	41
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA	12	53	157
RESIDENT OF KOSOVO (UNMIK)	1	0	2
REUNION ISLANDS	2	7	9
ROMANIA	52	78	97
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	15814	19784	23503
RWANDA	4	4	2
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS	6	42	31
SAINT HELENA	0	0	2
SAINT LUCIA	39	46	37
SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON	0	0	0
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	9	7	10
SAMOA	0	0	0
SAN MARINO	2	9	11
SAO TOME AND PRINCIP	0	1	0
SAUDI ARABIA	135	774	807
SENEGAL	4	7	5
SERBIA	330	132	213
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO	0	0	2
SEYCHELLES	4	18	14
SIERRA LEONE	1	19	11
SINGAPORE	2664	17085	12763
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	85	93	155
SOLOMON ISLANDS	0	1	3
SOMALIA	0	0	1
SOUTH AFRICA	396	621	636
SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS	0	0	1
SOUTH SUDAN	0	1	2
SPAIN	1253	1384	1376
SRI LANKA	64	179	454

SUDAN	6	5	9
SURINAME	1	0	0
SVALBARD AND JAN MAYEN ISLANDS	0	0	0
SWAZILAND	81	153	130
SWEDEN	806	639	611
SWITZERLAND	754	870	985
SYRIA	1	2	2
TANZANIA	107	217	609
TAZIKISTAN	1100	1112	997
THAILAND	85	655	921
TOGO	5	7	7
TOKELAU	0	0	1
TONGA	0	0	0
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1	4	16
TUNISIA	5	9	17
TURKEY	212	300	326
TURKMENISTAN	1	0	2
TURKS AND CAICOS ISL	1	0	0
TUVALU	0	2	2
UGANDA	301	546	662
UKRAINE	18596	2199	326
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3427	5892	6611
UNITED KINGDOM	77855	132709	136921
UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS	21	0	190
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	125115	190512	234473
URAGUAY	23	49	63
UZBEKISTAN	503	3430	6601
VANUATU	13	57	99
VATICAN CITY - HOLY SEE	0	0	1
VENEZUELA	1	3	2
VIETNAM	5	155	551
VIRGIN ISLANDS (BRITISH)	0	1	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS (US)	0	0	2
WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS	1	5	3
YEMEN	3	24	36
ZAMBIA	46	133	70
ZIMBABWE	2	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>444553</b>	<b>750365</b>	<b>892989</b>