

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 996
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024**

New universities for expansion of higher education in the country

996 # Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country would need more than 2500 universities to enroll 50 per cent students in higher education in the next ten years;
- (b) the steps Government is taking to construct or help in establishment of such institutions;
- (c) the number of teachers and staff to be recruited for the functioning and management of these Universities and the procedure thereof; and
- (d) the number of Central Universities, IITs, NITs and IIITs proposed to be set up?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) envisages increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education including vocational education, to 50% by 2035 and the Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which inter-alia include: -

- i. Opening of more HEIs - The number of Universities/University level Institutions registered under AISHE have increased to 1213 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 760 in 2014-15. Similarly, number of Colleges registered under AISHE have increased to 46624 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 38498 in 2014-15.
- ii. Implementing various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students, including for SC/ST/OBC and Minority students and underserved regions.
- iii. Allowing well performing HEIs (based on NAAC and NIRF ranking) by University Grants Commission (UGC) to offer full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes based on quality parameters.
- iv. Providing much-needed flexibility and appropriate Exit as well Re-entry options in the Higher Education system, to facilitate students to choose their learning trajectory.
- v. Allow pursuing two Academic Programmes simultaneously.

- vi. Permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year.
- vii. Providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities for all learners through Study Webs for Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform, which provides high quality structured online courses in multiple disciplines.
- viii. Permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform.
- ix. Conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, to facilitate students and making available Text Books in Indian Languages to facilitate students, particularly from vernacular/rural background.

The initiatives of the Government have resulted in increase of GER to 29.5 in 2022-23 (Provisional) from 23.7 in 2014-15. As far as Ministry of Education is concerned, there has been increase in budget allocation from Rs. 99,311.52 crore (2020-21) to Rs. 1, 21,117.77 crore (2024-25), which is around 21.95 % increase.

Break-up of Higher Educational Institutions viz. Central Universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs, IIITs and IISERs is given below:

S. No.	Name of Institution	No. of Institutions before 2014	No. of Institutions after 2014
1.	Central Universities (including IGNOU)	40	48
2.	IITs	16	23
3.	IIMs	13	21*
4.	NITs & IIEST	31	32
5.	IIITs	09	25
6.	IISERs & IISc	06	08
Total		115	157

*NITIE, Mumbai converted into IIM

Setting up of higher education institutions is an ongoing process. Depending on the need, educational institutions are opened from time to time. The Central Higher Education Institutions/Universities are envisaged as pace setting institutions to provide academic leadership to other institutions in the region.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States/UTs. The States/UTs and Centre endeavour to uplift the educational status of the students of the country.
