

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title: Regarding Drop-out Rate among SC/ST Students in Higher Education.**

**SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA (AMALAPURAM):** Sir, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education went up to 27.1 per cent in 2019-20 from 26.3 per cent in 2018-19 as per the All-India Survey of Higher Education 2019-20. But the GER of SC/ST remains much lower than the national GER, despite reservations in public institutions. Further, between 2016 and 2020, 60 per cent of the dropout students belonging to SC/ST communities are from IITs, NITs, IISERs, and from other Centrally-Funded Technical Institutions.

As per the Government estimates, over 63 per cent of the undergraduate dropouts at the top seven IITs in the last five years are from the reserved categories with almost 40 per cent being from the SC/ST communities.

Even the proportion of SC/ST dropouts is very high compared to their admissions to the Institutes. This suggests that those who drop out are disproportionately affected in certain aspects, and maybe, they experience increased pressure and discrimination at these institutes.

Sir, through you, I would request the Ministry of Education to take requisite measures to rectify such disproportionate trends in higher education among the reserved category students. Thank you.