

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 191
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

Students Going Abroad for Higher Education

191. **Shri G. M. Siddeshwar:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 10-12 lakh students go abroad for higher education every year which reflects the level of education in the country;
- (b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange spent every year for pursuing education outside the country;
- (c) whether the Government is working on any action plan to stop this trend by developing quality Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) in the country itself; and
- (d) if so, the details of the scheme/proposal and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) As per the information received from Ministry of External Affairs, the number of Indians who are studying abroad is approximately 13 lakhs.

(b) Ministry of Education does not maintain the data of foreign exchange spent every year for pursuing education outside the country.

(c) and (d) National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification. Government has taken several steps to develop quality Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) in India, details of which are as under:

Academic Bank of Credit digitally stores the academic credits earned from various recognized Higher Educational Institutes so that the degrees from an Institution can be awarded taking into account credits earned.

University Grants Commission has issued "Guidelines for Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programmes offered in Higher Education Institution". Multiple Entry and Exit provides the much-needed flexibility and appropriate exit options for a student who may discontinue his/her studies in different phases and re-enter to continue education into the higher levels.

Considering the rigidity of disciplinary boundaries in Higher Education Institutions, University Grants Commission has developed "Guidelines for Transforming Higher Education Institutions into Multidisciplinary Institutions".

Students will be able to do parts of their programmes from both Indian and foreign universities under University Grants Commission (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) Regulations, 2021.

Higher Educational Institutes are being actively encouraged to participate in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and Accreditation. Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) has been issued with 70% quantitative and 30% qualitative assessment.

World Class Institutions Scheme was launched in the year 2017 to enable higher educational institutions in the country to have affordable world class academic and research facilities. The regulatory framework of the scheme provides for identifying 10 institutions each from the public and private category to grant them the status of an 'Institution of Eminence' (IoE). So far, 12 institutions have been notified as 'Institutions of Eminence' (IoE) which include 08 institutions from the public category and 04 institutions from the private category. The 'Institutions of Eminence' (IoE) have been granted significant autonomy in administrative, academic and financial matters to achieve the objectives of the scheme. The public 'Institutions of Eminence' (IoE) are also provided financial assistance up to Rs 1000 Crores, over a period of 5 years, to implement their plans for achieving the objectives of the scheme.

National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) provides a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration. Samarth is an initiative to enable the universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through a digital framework for planning, management, delivery, and monitoring of services for students, staff, and other stakeholders.

To address the increasing skill challenges of the Indian IT industry and growth of domestic IT market, the Ministry of Education has established five Centrally Funded Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) institutes and twenty IIITs, on a Not-for-profit Public Private Partnership (N-PPP) in India with a vision to provide world class human resources in IT, developing/strengthening the human capital available for the IT industry in the country, and harnessing the multi-dimensional facets of IT in various domains.

In addition to the above, in accordance with National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 recommendations, Regulations for foreign universities to open campuses in India have been issued by University Grants Commission.

World-Class Foreign Universities and Institutions are allowed in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-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). Deakin University and University of Wollongong from Australia have been given in-principle approval to establish their campuses in GIFT City.
