

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:308

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007

HIGHER EDUCATION

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the opportunities for higher education are not sufficient in comparison to our needs;
- (b) if so, the strategies the Government is going to adopt to fulfil the needs in higher education;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase the total number of Universities in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.308 FOR 20.3.2007 ASKED BY THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY AND SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR REGARDING HIGHER EDUCATION

(a) to (d): The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education in our country, is low compared to several other countries and there is a need to expand the intake capacity in Higher Education to raise our GER. The strategy being followed is to expand capacity as well as increase opportunities of access to all sections of the society, while maintaining standards. Expansion of capacity in higher education is a joint effort of the State Governments and the Central Government. Private unaided institutions are also permitted in higher education provided there is no commercialization of education or lowering of standards. The budgetary provision for higher education, including technical education, has been substantially increased since 2004-05 by the Central Government resulting in the creation of new Central Universities and other higher educational institutions.