

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:372
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) the percentage of population which has access to higher education in the country;
- (b) the details of the problems being faced by the higher education system in the country and the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up National Accreditation Authority and National Education Finance Corporation as well as to allow domestic and foreign players to set up educational institutes in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action initiated by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the extent to which the measures taken by the Government are likely to improve access to higher education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.372 ON 21.04.2010, ASKED BY SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE AND DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, REGARDING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) to (e): The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education as a percentage of the population in the age group of 18-24 years is estimated to be 12.4%. The problems that beset the higher education system in India relate primarily to low access, exclusion of disadvantaged sections of the population, and quality of education imparted.

The low GER in India as compared to other developing countries has multiple causes, including the lack of availability of institutions imparting higher education, the comparatively low percentage of students emerging from secondary education system, the reducing public expenditure on higher education by Governments over a period of time and the significant change in the demographics with a rapid increase in population in the target age group. The problem of inclusion arises due to imbalances on account of regional and socio- economic factors. Quality of education has also been an area of concern in higher education owing to declining investments in infrastructure and shortage of faculty due to the inability, hitherto, to attract talented persons to the teaching profession.

Legislative proposals for mandatory accreditation of all higher educational institutions and establishing an independent Accreditation Authority for the purpose and for the regulation of entry and operation of foreign educational institutions have been finalized for introduction in Parliament.

A proposal for establishment of National Educational Finance Corporation (NEFC) to provide funds through direct lending and refinance facilities for the creation and infrastructure development of higher educational institutions, provide concessional loans to institutions established for removal of imbalances and disparities in access opportunities for disadvantaged sections as well as to refinance educational loans obtained by students for pursuit of higher studies is under consideration for which a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation.

The above measures are part of a package of reform measures that would facilitate the establishment of quality institutions thereby increasing access and promoting inclusion as well as improve the quality of education in existing institutions of higher learning.