

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2152  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011  
ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any target to build the capacity in the country by the year 2020 to provide higher education to 30 per cent children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any time-bound scheme to achieve the target;
- (d) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure admission for all students who are desirous and getting higher education?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): The constant endeavour of the Government is to improve quality and expand access to higher education with equity and inclusion. XI Plan Document has targeted an increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to 21% by the end of XII Plan with an interim target of 15% by 2012. To achieve this, the enrolment in universities and colleges needs to be substantially raised at an annual rate of 8.9% to reach 21 million by 2011-12. In the Approach Paper to the XII Plan, Planning Commission has indicated that an additional enrolment of 10 million would be targeted in higher education, equivalent to 3 million additional seats for each age cohort entering the higher education system. In order to achieve this target, Government has initiated several initiatives for expansion of higher and technical institutions, which includes setting up of 8 IITs, 10 NITs, 1000 polytechnics, 20 IITs and 16 Central Universities. To increase access in technical education, multiple shifts have also been allowed in engineering institutions and polytechnics. In addition, Government has launched a scheme for setting up of 374 Model Degree Colleges in districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio lower than the national average to increase access to higher education. Government has also started new schemes of scholarships, setting up of women hostels in polytechnics, scheme of interest subsidy for pursuing higher education with the objective to making education inclusive. All these schemes initiated by the Government are implemented in an ongoing time bound manner.