

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3092
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS
Kumar Shri Shailendra

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

- (a) whether there is a huge difference between the attendance of students in the urban and rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for less number of students in higher education in the country compared to global ratio?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): The data on the attendance of students is not maintained. However, as per the National Sample Survey Report, "Education in India: 2007-08, Participation and Expenditure", the Net Attendance Ratio (NAR), which is the percentage of the total number of persons in the official age-group attending a particular class-group, is 8% and 21% in higher education for rural and urban areas respectively. The reason for this difference is not available in the report.

(c) : As per the annual publication "Statistics of Higher and Technical Education" of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of the population in the age group of 18-23 years during 2009-10 (Provisional) is 15%. As per the Global Education Digest published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the GER for World Average is 29% during the same period.

The Indian higher education system faces many complex challenges, the most formidable of which are those of access and equity. There are places in the country where institutional density is very low on account of hilly and inaccessible areas inhabited by tribals. Some of the students opt out of the system due to reasons of financial constraints. Many of these challenges are specific to India and therefore, any comparison with global GER must take these complexities into account.