

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3524
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN
Singh Shri N.Dharam

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the status of higher education of women in the country is lower than most other countries in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to improve the status of higher education of women in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): It is true that participation of women in higher education leaves much to be desired. Even now India does not compare favourably with developed countries on various parameters pertaining to participation of women in higher education. The Gender Parity Index presently stands at 88.8, which means that only 89 girls are enrolled in higher education as compared to 100 boys. However, situation is changing fast due to various interventions by the Central government. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of women in higher education in the country is currently 18.9 [as per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) provisional data 2011-12] and has been growing steadily along with the growth in GER.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Women's education is a priority area of focus in the higher education sector. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has undertaken several schemes for the benefit of higher education of women and participation of women in managing higher education. These include the construction of Women Hostels Scheme, the Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education Scheme, the Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarship Scheme for Single Girl Child and a fellowship for single girl child for taking up research in science departments, which have been covered under the Basic Scientific Research (BSR) programme. The UGC is also implementing a scheme of Women's Studies. Under this scheme, there are 157 Women's Studies Centres.

To enhance the over-all enrolment in higher education and ensure quality, the Central Government has recently sanctioned a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abihyan (RUSA). Special emphasis is given in the scheme to the enrolment of girls and women in higher education.