

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.30 and No.154 for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “Education Cooperation with UAE”

- (a) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with United Arab Emirates(UAE) to strengthen existing educational cooperation between two countries;**

Reply : The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University has not signed any MoU with the Govt. of UAE. However the University has signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with three Overseas Study Centres at Wisdom Educational Consultant, Abu Dhabi, UAE , Al Hikma Education Institution, Sharjah, U.A.E. and Emirates Professional Training Institute, Sharjah, U.A.E.

- (b) if so, the details of the Government proposal to open an office of Central Board of Secondary Education in Dubai to provide support to CBSE affiliated Indian schools functioning in the UAR;**

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the details of work done in this regard ;**

Reply (b and c) : Questions do not pertain to IGNOU in the light of (a) above.

- (d) whether a Joint Working Group has been set by the Government from both the countries for continuous work in the field of education, if so, the details thereof; and**

- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to further expand cooperation between two countries in the field of education as one of the strongest pillars of bilateral ties?**

Reply (d and e) : The MoE may like to reply.

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.U480 for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “Completion Milestones”

(a) Ministry-wise details of the projects which have not completed their project targets of 2023;

Reply: As far as IGNOU is concerned, the details of the projects which have not completed their project targets of 2023 are placed below :

PROJECTS WHICH HAVE NOT COMPLETED TARGETS OF 2023					
S. No.	Name of the Organization	Project Location (District & State)	PROJECT AGENCY	Schedule date of Completion as per agreement	Likely Date of Completion
1	IGNOU RC PUNE	C/o RC building at Balewadi PUNE	CPWD	28.07.2023	31.12.2023
2	IGNOU RC BANGALORE	C/o RC building at BANGALORE	CPWD	19.02.2022	31.12.2023
3	IGNOU RC JAMMU	C/o RC building at JAMMU	CPWD	23.12.2022	31.12.2023

(b) details of the project agencies which have undertaken the delayed projects; and

Reply: The project are handled by the CPWD.

(c) whether Government is planning to conduct a CAG study report of the incompleted projects and the details therefor?

Reply: The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 117 for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “India Skills Report-2023”.

- (a) whether the Government assess the effectiveness of the Skill India program in addressing the skill gap among young jobseekers, as highlighted in the India Skills Report-2023;**
- (b) the details of specific measures in place to track the impact of skill development initiatives on employability;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes regulatory measures to ensure the quality education and skills imparted in new private colleges instead of worth less degree offered by them;**
- (d) whether the Government planning to adopt any strategies to address the skills gap and enhance the employability of young jobseekers in the coming years;**
- (e) whether the Government is planning to differentiate between institutions genuinely focused on skill development and those taking advantage of students seeking both skills and credentials; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

Reply (a to f): The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University works with Ministries, academic institutions, and training centres to provide vocational and skill-based education, It offers various Academic programmes related to skill development with specific focus on employability. Learners at the undergraduate level can take skill enhancement courses in different areas of Indian Culture and Arts.

The Indian Air Force has signed MOU with IGNOU to deliver Skill-based Bachelor Degree Programmes to Agniveers. The plan for providing Agniveers with a Skill-based Bachelor Degree Programme provides for the recognition and acceptance of credits gained through NSQF-aligned skill training courses (at the level 4.5 and higher) conducted in-service by the Defence Establishments.

Presently, the University has been offering vocational courses in the following areas at Certificate, Diploma and Degree level:

- Information Security
- Entrepreneurship
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- BPO & Accounting
- Communication
- IT & mobile application
- Pharmaceuticals Sales Management
- Fashion Design
- Food processing, safety & quality
- Energy technology and management
- Watershed Management
- Para-medical

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 132 for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding "Indian Universities Campuses Abroad".

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage high performing Indian Universities to set up campuses abroad under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020;

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University does not set up campuses abroad. University recognises the Overseas Study Centres and at present 25 Overseas Study Centres are working abroad.

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the countries with which India has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate academic cooperation; and
- (d) the total number of students/faculty that have benefitted from student-exchange programme during each of the last four years?

Reply (b to d) : The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 77 for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “Promotion of Global Competitiveness among Post Graduate Students”.

- (a) whether there are any programmes at the national level to promote global competitiveness among post graduate students, Tribal University students to compete globally with international-standard education;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether there are national-level initiatives in place to ensure that tribal students from diverse States such as Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, have access to educational offerings at par with those provided by the Tribal University; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

Reply (a to d): The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the jurisdiction of the University extends to the whole country and its programmes are offered to all the states and the states like Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh are also covered. The University offers various certificate/diploma /UG/ PG programmes at reasonably affordable fees to cater to the needs of the Tribal community.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 188 for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “Dropout of Students in Central Universities, IITs, IIMs and NLUs”.

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment to estimate the total number of students who have dropped out of Central Universities, IITs, IIMs and NLUs during the last five years and if so, the details thereof, University/Institution/State/UT- wise;**
- (b) the proportion of Other Backward Class, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe student dropouts in these Higher Education Institution in the last five years;**

Reply (a and b): The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, IGNOU imparts Education through Distance Education Mode and has flexible study schedule. Also the duration of the programs are different for UG, PG Diploma depending upon the programme structure duration by the school of studies. Hence, the Para (a & b) regarding number of SC/ST/OBC/ dropouts last five years is not applicable to IGNOU due to its flexible learning system.

- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to understand the causes behind high dropout rates amongst OBC, SC and ST students in these Higher Education Institutions; and**
- (d) If so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

Reply (c to d): The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 109 for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “tribal research and tribal studies”.

- (a) the initiatives being taken to promote tribal research and tribal studies in India;**
- (b) the details of existing and proposed Tribal Research Institutes and Center of Excellence in the country, State-wise;**
- (c) the details of the financial assistance provided to the Centre of Excellence for the last four years;**

Reply (a to c) : The MoE may like to reply. As per as IGNOU is concerned, the university offers various programmes specifically on tribal studies. The university offers Certificate in Tribal Studies in Online/ODL mode.

The university also offers following MOOC courses :

- Understanding Tribals
- Tribal Society
- Tribals of South and Central India
- Tribals in the North and Northeast Region of India

- (d) whether any initiatives have been taken to promote international collaboration/ institutional partnerships on indigenous studies;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof;**

Reply (d and e): The MoE may like to reply. As per as IGNOU is concerned, the University had also offered a three-month online Basic Hindi Awareness programme for foreign nationals in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and Central Hindi Directorate (CHD).

- In the first batch 224 students were registered in the programme from 9 countries i.e. Thailand, China, Mauritius, Indonesia, Vietnam, Iran, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Romania.
- In the second batch, 144 students were registered from 29 countries Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, Zambia.

- (f) whether the Government has received a proposal from the Institute of Tribal Studies & Research (ITSR), Chethalayam, Wayanad for the upgradation of its existing facilities; and**
- (g) if so, the details thereof along with its present status?**

Reply (f to g) : The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 335 for answer on 05.12.2023 regarding 'Suicide by SC/ST'.

- (a) the details and the number of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) committed suicide due to loan and poverty;**
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to stop the suicide among them;**
- (c) the number of SC and ST students committed suicide due to the social discrimination in the country; and**
- (d) the step taken to prevent social discrimination in the national institutions in the country?**

Reply (a to d) : The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, there is no suicide case of students.

Lok Sabha Provisionally Admitted Unstarred Question Dy. No. 1570 for answer on 06.12.2023 regarding "Knowledge of Artificial Intelligence".

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the future workforce is equipped with the knowledge in the area of Artificial Intelligence that is imperative for the growth of the country?**
- (b) the details of the funds allocated, released and utilized under various schemes for promoting Artificial Intelligence during the last three years, year-wise, State/UT-wise? And**

Reply (a to b): The MoE may like to reply.

- (c) the steps taken by Government to impart the knowledge of Artificial Intelligence to the youth of the country?**

Reply: As far as IGNOU is concerned, it offers Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning as a course in its MCA (Master of Computer Applications) programme.

Rajya Sabha Diary No.S1154 for answer on 06.12.2023 regarding “Sanctioned & vacant post in Central Universities”.

(a) Over all sanctioned and vacant post of teaching positions in Central Universities?

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, number of sanctioned and vacant teaching and academic posts in IGNOU as on date is as under:

	Total	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PwBD
Sanctioned	778	447	111	54	131	14	21
In position	478	300	74	29	60	3	12
Vacant	300	147	37	25	71	11	9

(b) Give State wise split?

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, IGNOU is a National Open University with headquarters at Delhi.

(c) No. of sanctioned and vacant posts in Central Universities under General, OBC, SC, ST, EWS and Persons with disabilities category ?

Reply: Kindly see reply to question (a).

(d) No. of appointments in last 3 yrs? Category wise and year wise?

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, number of appointments made in 2021, 2022 and 2023 category-wise is as under:

Year	Number of Selection Committees	Category wise appointments made						
		Total	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PwBD
2021	61	76	32	17	4	19	2	2
2022	11	11	2	1	4	3	-	1
2023	18	27	7	5	3	11	1	-

(e) No. of teaching candidates registered on UGC portal CU-Chayan as on today?

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, IGNOU is using recruitment portal on SAMARTH.

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 338 for answer on 06.12.2023 regarding “Assessment of Distance Learning Programs”.

(a) whether Government has conducted an assessment of online distance learning programs for postgraduate students in the central Universities;

Reply: The MOE may like to reply.

In IGNOU, most of the online programmes have been introduced during the past two years. The minimum & maximum duration for successful completion of Master’s programme in online mode in IGNOU is 2 & 4 years respectively. The University carries out the summative assessment of programme (s) once 3 to 4 batches of a specific programme complete the maximum duration. As the online programmes are in its initial stages, the University will carry out summative assessment for the same in next 2 to 3 years.

(b) if such an assessment has been conducted, the number of students enrolled in distance learning programs and their placements after completing postgraduate degrees through distance mode;

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. The enrolment data of the students’ data (session-wise) for Online Post Graduate programmes since 2021 is enclosed for kind reference (**Annexure**).

ONLINE POST GRADUATE DATA SESSION WISE							
PROGRAMME	JANUARY, 2021	JULY, 2021	JANUARY, 2022	JULY, 2022	JANUARY, 2023	JULY, 2023	Grand Total
MADEOL				115	120	785	1020
MAJMCOL			109	200	600	2112	3021
MARDOL			102	279	305	1965	2651
MASSOL					369	1089	1458
MATSOL	12	40	11	37	70	351	521
MBAOL			1067	1532	11081	17955	31635
MCAOL			213	611	3842	8016	12682
MCOMOL				179	1672	5544	7395
MEGOL			387	770	1524	5088	7769
MGPSOL	86	104	33	33	143	351	750
MHDOL	346	284	223	303	1220	2790	5166
MSKOL						344	344
Grand Total	1405	2584	4750	10970	40526	98890	159125

Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. S1510 for answer on 06.12.2023 regarding “Teaching positions and Ad hoc Teachers in Central Universities”

(a) Number of permanent positions sanctioned in central universities across the country and current status of vacancies in such positions, category-wise data;

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, number of sanctioned and vacant teaching and academic posts in IGNOU as on date is as under:

	Total	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Sanctioned	778	466	111	55	132	14
In position	478	310	74	30	61	3
Vacant	300	156	37	25	71	11

(b) Number of ad-hoc/temporary teachers engaged in central universities, provide year-wise and category-wise data since May-2019;

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University does not appoint any adhoc/temporary teachers.

(c) Number of ad-hoc teaching positions renewed after four-month period, year-wise and category-wise data since May-2019; and

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University does not appoint any adhoc/temporary teachers.

(d) Number of selection committees constituted and appointments made university-wise, year-wise and category-wise since May-2019.

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, number of selection committees constituted and appointments made university-wise, year-wise and category-wise since May-2019, since May 2019 is as under:

Year	Number of Selection Committees	Category wise appointments made					
		Total	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
2019	02	1	1	-	-	-	-
2020	04	5	3	1	-	1	-
2021	61	76	34	17	4	19	2
2022	11	11	3	1	4	3	-
2023	18	27	7	5	3	11	1

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.U598 for answer on 06.12.2023 regarding “Teaching posts are vacant across 42 central universities and all centrally funded higher education institutes in the country.”

(a) Is it a fact that around 20,000 teaching posts are vacant across 42 central universities and all centrally funded higher education institutes in the country. And if so the details thereof as on date;

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, number of sanctioned and vacant teaching and academic posts in IGNOU as on date is as under:

	Total
Sanctioned	778
In position	478
Vacant	300

(b) Whether the large number of pending vacancies is due the cumbersome, long recruitment process and involves too many procedural formalities;

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University has been following the procedure as per UGC Regulations and its Act and Statutes having adequate checks and balances.

(c) If so the steps taken by the Government to make the recruitment process simple and transparent.

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply.

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question Diary No.346 for answer on 06.12.2023 regarding “Drug abuse in educational institutions”

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the accelerated role of drug abuse among school and college students;**
- (b) whether there is any pragmatic and student-centric action plan to address this serious social issue;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether Government is planning to undertake a nation-wide awareness programme to curb the problem of drug among students and if so, the details thereof?**

Reply (a to d) : The MOE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University imparts education through Open and Distance Learning Mode and there are no campus(s) for students in the University Hqs. and its Regional Centres All the students enrolled in IGNOU remain in their places of residence and complete their studies. They can visit their respective Study Centre for counseling or any academic assistance etc. However, some of the University programmes also have courses/themes on family counseling & therapy, psychology, mental health, yoga therapy etc. for awareness of the students.

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.341 regarding Traditional classroom environments asked by Smt. Kanta Kardam for 06.12.2023.

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that the country should move away from traditional classroom environments to more exploratory spaces and resources to engage in learning;**

Reply: MOE may like to reply.

- (b) if so, the steps that are proposed to be taken by Government to incorporate flexibility, uncertainty, and non-linear thinking to approach the future in education; and**

Reply: As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University offers academic programmes through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. It promotes the unconventional or non-traditional system of education unlike traditional classroom based education. It provides education to millions of people by providing self learning materials and freedom to learners to study at their own pace and place, offering flexibility in entry and exit and choice of courses.

1. The University has adopted the UGC Guidelines for Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programmes offered in HEIs and also notified the modalities for facilitating students in multiple entry and exit (24th August, 2022).
2. The learner has the freedom to choose courses from the flexible curricular structures across disciplines (Academic Year 2021-2022 onwards). For example, learners of B.Sc. are provided with an option to choose Courses from multiple disciplines viz. Anthropology, Economics, Psychology, Indian and Foreign languages, Gender Studies, Commerce, Agriculture, Fashion Design; Environmental Studies, etc.
3. The University has registered on the ABC Portal. ABC IDs for over 20 lakh IGNOU students have been created. The students are encouraged to avail the transfer of credits available in the ABC. For example, the University offers Course-wise Registration and Certification and the credits earned are accumulated in the ABC.
4. The University has digitized the Self Learning Materials (SLMs) of all the programmes which are available to the learners on its web based repository: e-Gyankosh.
5. There are 4711 audio and 6007 video programmes of various disciplines and subjects available on YouTube (e-Gyankosh) for the convenient viewing of learners and the public at large.
6. IGNOU is one of the national coordinators for SWAYAMPRAKASH, and is running four channels.
7. IGNOU is the National Coordinator of SWAYAM and is currently offering 221 massive open online courses (MOOCs) in different disciplines on the SWAYAM platform.
8. IGNOU has its own dedicated GyanDarshan education TV Channel which telecasts educational programmes and conducts live teleconferencing sessions. GyanDarshan conducts two hours of live sessions every day in interactive mode to build interactivity in the teaching-learning process. There is a dedicated FM radio channel GyanVani which broadcast programmes for 12 hours a day. Interactive Radio Counselling (IRC) facilities are provided through GyanVani stations to enable students (across the country/overseas) to interact with the Faculty, Academic counsellors and Student Support Staff. GyanDhara, an web-based counselling service is offered by IGNOU to internet users across the globe. Learners can interact with the teachers and experts through telephone, email and chat mode.

9. IGNOU is providing online counselling to its learners through various e platforms including IGNOU LMS.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reply: Does not arise.

Rajya Sabha Question No.557/U981 for answer on 07.12.2023 regarding “Recognition of Indian diploma/degrees abroad”

- (a) The manner in which the Ministry is proactively facilitating global opportunities, including bilateral recognition, for Indian technical diploma/degrees given the high demand overseas for technicians;**
- (b) whether any bilateral agreements have been made with foreign countries to ensure recognition of Indian technical qualifications and encourage participation in international Joint Degree Programmes; and**
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry intends to collaborate with Indian technical institutions to promote awareness and participation in programs leading to dual accreditation of technical qualifications?**

Reply (a to c): The MOE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University is presently not offering technical diploma/degree through our Overseas Study Centres abroad.

Lok Sabha Admitted Question No.76 for answer on 07.12.2023 regarding “Minorities living below Poverty Line”

- (a) whether the government proposes to carry out any survey for identifying the minorities including Muslims living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in each State;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of schemes formulated for improving the economic condition of the minorities;**
- (d) the details of funds allocated under these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year; and**
- (e) the mechanism in place for proper implementation and monitoring of these schemes?**

Reply (a to e): The MOE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, as of now the University has not carried out any specific survey for identifying minorities including Muslims below Poverty line.

Rajya Sabha Question Dy.No.2752 for answer on 11.12.2023 regarding “Funds to Development”

- (a) the details of the item-wise amount of funds allocated by the Government for development of Scheduled Tribes during the last two years and the current year;**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply. The University has not received grant from Govt. of India particularly with the name of “Development of Scheduled Tribes”. The MOE has allocated the grant to IGNOU under the Scheduled Cast Plan & Tribal Sub Plan (SCSP/TSP) schemes. The details of grant received in the last two years and the current year under TSP Scheme is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial years	Funds Sanctioned by MOE to IGNOU for Non-NER/NER Component wise
FY 2021-22	4.00
FY 2022-23	3.64 (including transferred Component-wise to SoU)
FY 2023-24	3.64

- (b) the names of the schemes being implemented by the Government for upliftment and development of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh;**

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply.

- (c) whether the Government has constituted any task group to ensure proper implementation of the said schemes; and**

- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

Reply (c & d): Does not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1363 for answer on 11.12.2023 regarding “Increase of suicide case of students in HEIs, IITs, IIMs and NITs”.

- (a) Whether suicide cases among students of school, colleges, IITs, IIM, and NITs, IIT have seen an increase in recent years and if so, the details of such cases since 2014; State-wise especially for the state of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh;**
- (b) The details of suicide cases of OBC/SC/ST students took place in 2022 and 2023;**

Reply (a & b): The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, there is no suicide case of students in recent years.

- (c) Whether the Government has conducted a study in this regard after setting up a Committee and is also aware that many Central Universities and Government schools still lack mental health consellers for students;**
- (d) If so, the findings of such Committee and whether the Government has implemented/considered implementing any pre-emptive measures/schemes/initiatives/programmes under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy to actively tackle and reduce the number of student suicides and if so, the details thereof;**

Reply (c & d): The MOE may like to reply.

- (e) Whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposal/memorandum in this regard;**

Reply: Does not pertain to IGNOU.

- (f) Whether the Government will consider to evolve legal framework to address caste-based discrimination by implementation of UGC (Promotion of Equity in HEIs) Regulations, 2012 across all Central Educational Institutes;**

Reply: MOE may like to reply.

- (g) Whether there have been instances where students from marginalized communities were being asked their entrance test ranks during campus recruitment in various IITs and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (h) The number of students dropped out from IIT Madras since 2014 till date alongwith reasons?**

Reply (g & h): Does not pertain to IGNOU.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Q.No. 1161 for answer on 11.12.2023 regarding “Women Participation in STEM Courses”

(a) The factors responsible for furthering the participation rate of women in STEM courses in the country; and

Reply: The University offers undergraduate and graduate programmes in fields like Chemistry, Zoology, Physics, Statistics, Mathematics, Psychology etc. under STEM and have good number of women enrolment in these programmes.

The female participation in STEM programme (region-wise) in IGNOU is placed as Annexure.

(b) The rate of women participation in STEM courses in comparison to that of developed countries?

Reply: The MOE may like to reply.

**FRESH ADMISSION DATA OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN STEMP PROGRAM FROM JANUARY, 2018 TO JANUARY, 2023
(REGION WISE)**

REGION NAME	01-Jan-2018	01-Jan-2019	01-Jan-2020	01-Jan-2021	01-Jan-2022	01-Jan-2023	01-Jul-2018	01-Jul-2019	01-Jul-2020	01-Jul-2021	01-Jul-2022	TOTAL
01-HYDERABAD	23	9	33	63	83	85	50	177	143	305	288	1259
02-PORT BLAIR	3	2	24	20	30	44	12	57	85	94	124	495
03-ITANAGAR		2	8	10	6	6	4	14	36	33	23	142
04-GUWAHATI	22	5	29	40	33	77	60	169	104	146	170	855
05-PATNA	73	19	282	181	165	318	633	526	397	670	949	4213
06-CHANDIGARH	42	9	15	65	197	115	96	185	208	380	445	1757
07-DELHI 1	93	37	142	303	322	348	502	1292	941	1546	1541	7067
08-PANAJI	6	1	12	17	52	47	21	33	37	90	90	406
09-AHMEDABAD	17	10	33	64	50	53	86	180	145	185	246	1069
10-KARNAL	10	4	30	46	60	61	34	140	199	227	275	1086
11-SHIMLA	14	15	52	58	127	127	22	121	148	218	354	1256
12-JAMMU	14	2	64	99	77	320	29	97	157	247	289	1395
13-BANGALORE	48	35	79	152	181	217	276	289	334	411	422	2444
14-COCHIN	72	47	69	179	209	372	187	333	409	683	565	3125
15-BHOPAL	49	6	33	17	29	39	47	98	65	114	76	573
16-PUNE	42	28	40	59	75	83	68	303	167	246	285	1396
17-IMPHAL			12	6	12	16	6	39	21	38	36	186
18-SHILLONG	14	1	8	12	87	151	28	40	30	124	283	778
19-AIZWAL			4	10	11	7	4	24	19	43	35	157
20-KOHIMA							1	2		1	2	6
21-BHUBANESHWAR	10	11	209	160	249	275	134	394	338	544	552	2876
22-KHANNA	8	7	327	37	21	21	369	149	45	58	82	1124
23-JAIPUR	488		207	88	58	85	137	237	148	183	182	1813
24-GANGTOK					1	3		1		2	12	19

REGION NAME	01-Jan-2018	01-Jan-2019	01-Jan-2020	01-Jan-2021	01-Jan-2022	01-Jan-2023	01-Jul-2018	01-Jul-2019	01-Jul-2020	01-Jul-2021	01-Jul-2022	TOTAL
25-CHENNAI	66	8	220	30	55	49	205	362	128	150	141	1414
26-AGARTALA	9	1	12	10	8	20	12	47	36	40	49	244
27-LUCKNOW	103	9	40	55	74	68	108	198	158	222	237	1272
28-KOLKATA	136	59	155	135	129	198	320	528	466	616	591	3333
29-DELHI 2	64	69	231	431	533	611	416	2055	1598	2235	2129	10372
30-SRINAGAR	18	7	179	1184	948	636	45	218	488	1152	1644	6519
31-DEHRADUN	8	8	43	47	83	72	35	201	220	288	271	1276
32-RANCHI	70	31	83	102	108	140	91	268	153	235	248	1529
33-VIJAYAWADA	44	5	20	9	3	4	84	100	19	15	8	311
35-RAIPUR	10	4	19	8	14	10	24	119	54	44	50	356
36-NAGPUR	16	5	40	60	64	42	70	187	155	240	172	1051
37-JOHART	7		4	9	9	11	3	30	27	27	30	157
38-DELHI 3	87	43	129	382	275	306	422	729	1017	1306	1260	5956
39-NOIDA	167	69	289	180	208	377	344	818	353	678	619	4102
40-TRIVANDRUM	40	19	50	50	166	165	89	212	237	316	570	1914
41-JABALPUR	17	3	33	9	10	12	18	92	33	52	27	306
42-RAJKOT	6		4	10	8	6	9	18	26	38	59	184
43-MADURAI	3		16	29	15	16	27	27	33	61	53	280
44-KORAPUT	17	3	99	44	53	62	84	251	123	181	151	1068
45-SILIGURI	11	9	33	29	24	18	26	113	71	73	74	481
46-DARBHANGA	123	9	65	59	39	56	238	240	77	168	165	1239
47-ALIGARH	16	6	8	21	22	11	78	109	39	54	64	428
48-VARANASI	14	1	11	45	35	42	64	97	115	153	127	704
49-MUMBAI	55	13	39	68	114	88	141	131	195	332	346	1522
50-RAGHUNATHGANJ		1	5		2	1	5	17	14	12	4	61
51-KOLKATA, ARMY RC					1			2	1	4	1	9

REGION NAME	01-Jan-2018	01-Jan-2019	01-Jan-2020	01-Jan-2021	01-Jan-2022	01-Jan-2023	01-Jul-2018	01-Jul-2019	01-Jul-2020	01-Jul-2021	01-Jul-2022	TOTAL
52-CHANDIMANDIR, ARMY RC				1	1	3			3	3	13	24
53-LUCKNOW, ARMY RC								2	1		2	5
54-PUNE, ARMY RC				1	1			1		1		4
55-UDHAMPUR, ARMY RC	1			1	2	2		2	2	4	1	15
56-JAIPUR ARMY RC								3			1	4
72-MUMBAI, NAVY RC							3	1				4
73-VISAKHAPATNAM, NAVY RC				3				2	4	2		11
81-SHILLONG, ASSAM RIFLES RC									1			1
82-BHAGALPUR	2	1	20	14	27	28	14	57	82	66	58	369
83-VATAKARA	10	13	40	67	43	102	68	136	171	145	133	928
84-VISAKHAPATNAM	103	14	26	16	8	5	80	150	22	34	27	485
85-BIJAPUR	27	4	11	29	36	42	40	126	38	48	109	510
86-SAHARSA			14	22	22	38		90	74	79	119	458
87-DEOGHAR	1		23	10	10	10	4	52	43	57	32	242
88-JODHPUR	288		60	47	45	52	92	215	129	129	111	1168
89: ANGUL						25					71	96
TOTAL	2587	664	3733	4903	5330	6198	6065	12906	10582	15848	17093	85909

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Dy.No.3344 for answer on 11.12.2023 regarding “Representation in Professor Post of OBC/SCs/ST in Central Universities”

- (a) **Whether it is a fact that the representation of OBCs Central Universities in the Professor’s posts is mere 4.5 per cent and SCs 7 per cent, STs 2 per cent and the upper castes are 86 per cent and if so, the details thereof?**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the representation of OBCs, SCs, STs and Unreserved categories in the Professor's posts in IGNOU is as under:

	Sanctioned	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Professor	67	37	10	5	13	2

- (b) **the steps to be taken by the Government to ensure adequate representation of OBC, SC and ST in Faculty positions in Central Universities?**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University has been following the reservation policy of the Govt. of India and has conducted recruitments to fill up the posts belonging to various reserved categories including OBCs, SCs and STs.

- (c) **Whether government has any proposal to bring in reservation in promotion for OBCs and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Admitted version Unstarred Question no. 1428 and 3788 for answer on 12.12.2023 regarding "Making Education and Employment Accessible for PwDs".

(a) The steps taken by the Government to make education and employment more accessible for People with Disabilities (PwDs);

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. As so far as IGNOU is concerned the following steps have been taken by university to make education and employment more accessible for People with Disabilities (PwDs):

- All buildings situated in the Campus of IGNOU are equipped with ramps, handrails, lifts with talking features, and accessible toilets.
- The facility of wheelchair in all buildings of IGNOU HQs is available, so that Divyangjan can have barrier free movement in the campus.
- The website of IGNOU is W3C complied and accessible for persons with disabilities.
- IGNOU is a member of Sugamya Pustakalaya also where the students of IGNOU who have blindness, low vision or any other disability to read the standard print can access around 3.5 lakh books.
- The proceeding of the meeting/conference/programmes is supported with sign language interpretation, so that person with hearing impairment can also have all the information.
- The students with blindness are provided soft copy (in MS word form) of the study material, so that they can read it with the help of software.

(b) The salient features of the various schemes for making education and employment more accessible for PwDs;

Reply: The MoE may like to reply.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to raise awareness about disability rights;

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. In IGNOU, the following steps have been taken to raise awareness about disability rights:

- Regular conduct of live teleconference through Gyan Darshan and interactive radio counseling on important and relevant topic for persons with disabilities and their mainstreaming in the society as well as sensitization of various stakeholders of the society about the social issues in disability.
- Regular sensitization programmes of faculty and staff on disability issues conducted by National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS).
- The awareness module has been developed for creating awareness about different types of disabilities and disability right issues.

Also, the University has signed an MoU with RCI in April 2023 to develop and launch the following Eight Programmes with the implementation support of National Centre for Disability Studies (IGNOU):

1. Certificate Programme for Early Childhood Special Education Enabling Inclusion (Visual Impairment)
2. Certificate Programme for Early Childhood Special Education Enabling Inclusion (Hearing Impairment)
3. Certificate Programme for Early Childhood Special Education Enabling Inclusion (Intellectual Disability)
4. Certificate Programme for Early Childhood Special Education Enabling Inclusion (Cerebral Palsy)

5. Awareness cum Training Packages for Parents and Family Members of Children with Disabilities (Visual Impairment)
6. Awareness cum Training Packages for Parents and Family Members of Children with Disabilities (Hearing Impairment)
7. Awareness cum Training Packages for Parents and Family Members of Children with Disabilities (Intellectual Disability)
8. Awareness cum Training Packages for Parents and Family Members of Children with Disabilities (Cerebral Palsy)

Work on development and implementation of these Programmes has been initiated.

- (d) The beneficiaries of the said scheme and the funding outlaid for the same in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, district-wise including Bengaluru Urban; and**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply.

- (e) The budget allocations for this scheme in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, district-wise?**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Starred Q.No.125 for answer on 12.12.2023 regarding “Welfare of Blind Girl child/woman”

- (a) Whether the Union Governments in coordination with State Governments has taken any steps or implemented any welfare schemes in the country for welfare of blind girl children/women as they are facing difficulties for their survival due to lack of special social customized welfare schemes; and**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?**

Reply (a &b) : The MOE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned,

1. University provides study materials in braille on demand to blind students.
2. Library of the University has a good collection of educational resources in braille in collaboration with external agencies.
3. Special Study Centres are in function for blind students and for other disabilities.
4. The University has a National Centre for Disability Studies (NCDS) which designs, develops and implements educational, vocational and awareness programmes in disability for the service providers.

Rajya Sabha Provisionally Admitted Question No.S2303 for answer on 13.12.2023 regarding “Representation of Reserved Category in Central Universities”

- (a) **whether the deprived social categories like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs are adequately represented in the Central Universities;**

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the representation of OBCs, SCs, STs, UR & EWS categories in the Teaching/Academics and Non-teaching posts in IGNOU is as under:

- (i) **Teaching/Academic posts:**

Teaching & Academic Posts	Total	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Sanctioned	778	466	111	55	132	14
In position	478	310	74	30	61	3
Vacant	300	156	37	25	71	11

- (ii) **Non-teaching staff:**

	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Total	1635	313	145	311	95
Group-A	223	29	11	18	3
Group-B	241	41	17	9	2
Group-C	1171	243	117	284	90
In position	847	155	62	62	2
Group-A	149	22	11	10	2
Group-B	204	34	14	0	0
Group-C	494	99	37	52	0
Vacant	788	158	83	249	93
Group-A	74	7	0	8	1
Group-B	37	7	3	9	2
Group-C	677	144	80	232	90

- (b) **if so, the details thereof;**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the reply as at (a) above may please be referred.

- (c) **if not, the reasons therefor;**

Reply: The question does not arise in the light of (b) above.

- (d) **the number of Vice-Chancellors (VCs) in Central Universities belonging to SC, ST, OBC communities out of total number of VCs;**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, Prof. Nageshwar Rao is presently holding the positions of the Vice Chancellor of IGNOU belonging to UR category.

- (e) **the number of Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors in Central Universities belonging to SC, ST, OBC communities out of the total number of faculties; and**

Reply: In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the number of Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors in IGNOU is as under:

	In position	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
	293	196	44	17	31	3
Professor	21	17	1	2	1	0
Associate Professor	81	62	12	4	3	0
Assistant Professor	191	117	31	13	27	3

(f) the number of Registrars in Central Universities belonging to SC, ST, OBC communities out of total number of Registrars?

Reply: In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the details of the Registrars are given as under :-

#	Name of the post	Name	Category
1	Registrar, Administration Div.	Dr. Alok Chaubhe	General
2	Registrar, Material Production & Distribution Division	Col. Sree Krishna	General
3	Registrar, Student Evaluation Div.	Dr. V. B. Negi	ST
4	Registrar, Student Registrar Div.	Dr. Himansu Kumar Bose	General

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Dy.No.4253 for answer on 13.12.2023 regarding “Digital India Programme”

(a) The details about the role of Digital India in Making India self reliant and in the field of education;

Reply: The MEIT may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned it is offering 45 Online programmes through Learning Management System (LMS) with four quadrant features (E-Tutorials, Assessment, E-Content and Discussion forms) which provides comprehensive learning experience to the online learners in a holistic manner.

The University has taken up initiatives and also implemented various Academic Programmes online to impart Education to the Learners, which enhances the Teaching-Learning Activity effectively and on-time/on-demand. The Self-learning Material (SLM), made mostly Digital and is accessible to the Learners, apart from Audio/Video Lectures. In addition, imparting education through Gyan Darshan, Swayam Prabha and also YouTube Channels,

(b) The number of services being offered under Digital India programme;

Reply: The MEIT may like to reply. The IGNOU provides the National Digital Repository via eGyankosh portal to store, index, preserve, distribute and share the digital learning resources developed by IGNOU faculty for the IGNOU students. This contents can also be accessed through IGNOU-e-Content' Mobile Apps.

(c) The details about E-governance along with the manner in which it will empower the citizens;

Reply: The MEIT may like to reply.

- The University has implemented E-governance for its various business processes such as Student Life Cycle Management, Administration & Financial Services
- Introduced and implemented Digital Receipts and Payments
- Introduced and implemented Online Learners' Grievance Redressal System for Learners

(d) The time by which the Government offices are likely to be made paperless along with the steps being taken by the Government to promote digital transaction;

Reply: The MEIT may like to reply. IGNOU is availing the SAMARTH platform for Student Admission System, Online Question Paper Delivery System, Payroll system, and Recruitment portal for teaching and non-teaching staffs etc. Student admission fees and examinations fees and the application fees are collected through online payment system. The University has introduced and implemented Digital Transactions mostly for its business processes in the Domain of Admissions, Examinations, Recruitments, Procurement, Learners' Grievances, Administration, Finance & Accounting and Payments/Receipts.

(e) Whether Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) proposes to link Aadhar card, made for identification of Indian citizens, with voter list; and

Reply: The MEIT may like to reply.

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Reply: The MEIT may like to reply.

Rajya Sabha Starred Question Dy. No. S3088, S2803 regarding “EWS Faculty Posts in Central Varsities”

(a) whether it is true that posts reserved for EWS category for Associate Professors remains vacant in Central Universities even after four years of reservation introduction by the government;

(b) if so, reasons thereof;

Reply (a & b): The MOE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the posts earmarked for Associate Professor under EWS category have remained vacant due to non availability of suitable candidates under EWS category since the candidates are not able to meet the income criteria of EWS since they have been drawing higher pay in the feeder cadre.

(c) whether it is true that out of 35 Central Universities with sanctioned EWS faculty posts, 31 have failed to fill even a single position at the Associate Professor level and that 380 positions are unfilled;?

(d) if so, detailed reasons thereof;

Reply (c & d): In so far as IGNOU is concerned, please refer the reply at (a) above.

(e) the details of number of total numbers of sanctioned posts under EWS category in Central Universities position-wise and university-wise?

Reply: In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the representation of EWS category in respect of teaching/academic positions is given hereunder:

	Total posts Sanctioned	Posts sanctioned for EWS
	778	14
Professor	67	2
Associate Professor	134	1
Assistant Professor	243	5
Director/ Equivalent	25	0
Joint Director	3	0
Dy Dir/ Reg Dir	89	3
Assistant Dir/ARD equivalent	193	3
Producers	24	0

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Q.No.108 for answer on 13.12.2023 regarding “Suicide due to Competitive Exams”

- (a) **Whether government has any data regarding the number of students who committed suicide due to competitive exams like UPSC, JEE, NEET and others in the last three years, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) **whether Government has provided any compensation to the families of the deceased students, if so, the details thereof; and**

Reply (a & b): The MOE may like to reply.

- (c) **the steps taken by Government to provide psychological support for the students preparing for competitive exams.**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University has Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE) which gives coaching to SC students for Civil Services exams. It extends psychological support in the form of online motivation classes which were conducted by subject experts to the best of their capacity. In addition, motivational content was in-built in General Studies lectures by a few speakers.

Rajya Sabha Question Dy.No.S3227 for answer on 13.12.2023 regarding “Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme”.

- (a) Whether the government is actively running the Tribal Sub Plan Scheme for the welfare of Tribal Communities and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) Quantum of allocated funds spent by the government in last 3 years under central and centrally-sponsored schemes for the targeted welfare of Tribal Communities; and**
- (c) Whether the targeted budgetary allocations for Tribal Communities of the allocation of central and centrally-sponsored schemes have been decreased in last 3 years, and if so, the reasons thereof?**

Reply (a to c): The MOE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, the MOE has allocated the grant to IGNOU under the Scheduled Caste Plan & Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) scheme. The details of grant received in the last three years and utilized under TSP Scheme is as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Financial Years	Funds sanctioned by MoE to IGNOU for Non-NER/NER Component wise
FY 2020-21	3.95
FY 2021-22	4.00
FY 2022-23	3.64 (including transferred Component-wise to SoU)

Rajya Sabha Diary No.U2718 for answer on 14.12.2023 regarding “Promoting local and regional learning channels”

(a) whether Government has any plan to appoint local experts and other staff to promote local and regional learning channels, if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

Reply: Ministry of Education may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the following is submitted:

- National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), Ministry of Education, Government of India has established Sindhi Chair in the University for study and research pertaining to Sindhi Language and Culture.;
- The University is offering counseling of its professional courses through SWAYAM PRABHA live channel no. 19. Till date around 235 SWAYAM PRABHA live sessions have been telecasted for Management courses. A novel initiative by the University from 06 January 2022 for conducting live classes of popular BA courses (History, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Public Administration and Environmental Science) in 14 regional languages which are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Manipuri & Urdu including Hindi and English with the help of 20 Regional Centres in the country. The University is providing Channel-Based Counseling through different regional languages in CBCS based academic programmes and MBA programme of IGNOU on SWAYAM PRABHA with effect from 01 January 2022. In a short span 3,400 hours of live sessions have been conducted with an average of around 200 hours in each language. All the sessions are recorded and archived on IGNOU’s YouTube channel.

(b) whether Government has any plan to telecast channels for differently-abled audience in other languages, including local dialects of Jharkhand; of so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

Reply: The MOE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Q.No.6091 for answer on 15.12.2023 regarding “Promotion of Yoga education in Universities”

- (a) **Whether the Government has taken/proposed to be taken any measures to promote Yoga education in the universities across the country;**
(b) **if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the progress made in this regard;**

Reply (a & b): The MOE may like to reply. The IGNOU has been offering a certificate programme in Yoga (CPY) since July 2019. This is a six months certificate programme with two theory courses and one practical course. Total credit is 16 (1 credit = 30 hours of study).

Any 12th pass from any part of the country can join the CPY programme of IGNOU. Since the launch of the programme total 3404 students have joined the programme.

After pursuing this particular programme the learner will be able to:

1. discuss the history and the contribution of various Yogis in the field of Yoga;
2. describe the basic principles and practice of yoga; and
3. attain both physical and mental health through Yoga.

- (c) **Whether the Government intends to implement the seven programmes for Universities as recommended by the for Committee under the Chairpersonship of Prof H.R. Nagendra; and**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply.

- (d) **If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

Reply: The MOE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Question Diary No. 6648 for answer on 18/12/2023 regarding “Welfare of Tribal Communities in Kerala”.

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any schemes for welfare of tribal communities of Kerala and if so, the details thereof;**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU concerned, the University provides financial assistance in the form of fee exemption to SC/ST students in select academic programs for utilization of grants under the SCSP and TSP Scheme as per MoE guidelines. The SC/ST fee exemption scheme is notified in every academic cycle.

- (b) whether the Government has data regarding the educational standards of tribal communities of Kerala and if so, the details thereof;**

- (c) whether the Government has observed that massive drop outs are happening amongst tribals in schools of Kerala and if so, the details thereof;**

- (d) whether the Government has observed that many tribal colonies of Kerala are still do not have access to basic infrastructure and if so, the details of steps being taken to ensure that tribal colonies are connected in Kerala; and**

- (e) whether the Government has observed that tribal colonies of Kerala still doesn't have access to basic health and if so, the details of steps taken to ensure that tribal hamlets have good quality healthcare system?**

Reply (b to e): The questions do not pertain to IGNOU.

Lok Sabha Question Diary No. 6466 for answer on 18/12/2023 regarding “Welfare of Tribal Communities in Tamil Nadu”.

- (a) the details of the funds allocated by Government for sponsored programmes for the tribal areas of the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu as on date, State-wise;**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply.

- (b) the details of the welfare programmes being implemented for the development of tribal areas specially for the eradication of illiteracy and for the electrification of remote tribal areas, State-wise;**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, to enhance participation of ST students in higher education, the University provides financial assistance in the form of fee exemption to SC/ST students in select academic programs for utilization of grants under the SCSP and TSP Scheme as per MoE guidelines. The SC/ST fee exemption scheme is notified in every academic cycle.

- (c) whether the Government has stipulated any target for the development of tribal areas; and**

- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

Reply (c to d): The questions do not pertain to IGNOU.

Rajya Sabha Question Diary No. U347 for answer on 20/12/2023 regarding 'Upliftment of Tribals in Odisha'.

- (a) the funds spent by the central government for the upliftment of tribals in Odisha during the last five years, year-wise;**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, to enhance participation of ST students in higher education, the University provides financial assistance in the form of fee exemption to SC/ST students in select academic programs for utilization of grants under the SCSP and TSP Scheme as per MoE guidelines. The SC/ST fee exemption scheme is notified in every academic cycle. IGNOU has a Regional Centre at Koraput. Which is predominantly populated by the tribals.

- (b) the number of beneficiaries of various tribal upliftment programs and schemes of the central government in Odisha during the last five years, year-wise;**

- (c) the steps taken by the central government to improve the reach of various upliftment programs and schemes?**

Reply (b & c): The MoE may like to reply.

Rajya Sabha Provisionally Admitted Question No. S2749 for answer on 21.12.2023 regarding “Scheme for character building of young students”.

- (a) Whether the Government has any scheme for character building of young students in the country, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) Whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme for leadership development among the youth of India; and**
- (c) If so, the details thereof?**

Reply (a to c) : The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University offers diploma and certificate level academic programmes in Value education and in addition courses of family/social values, morality, leadership and communication etc. are integral part of curriculum of several academic programmes being offered by IGNOU.

Lok Sabha Admitted Unstarred Question No 3128 for answer on 21.12.2023 regarding Incentives for startups and SMEs .

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to encourage innovation, research and development and the creation of a conducive ecosystem for indigenous manufacturing and technology development;
- (b) if so, the initiatives, programs and policies introduced to promote research and innovation in various sectors, including incentives for startups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Reply (a & b): The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, following is submitted:

1. Various competitions like Idea Competition, Student Best Innovation Award, Best Startup Award, Business Plan Competitions and Startup Competition etc. are organized for identifying potential innovator and entrepreneur students and alumni of IGNOU
2. Various Student Empowerment Programmes and training workshops on Innovations, entrepreneurship and Startups are organized round the years for the students and alumni of IGNOU
3. Mentoring for Startup scheme has also been launched for one-to-one mentoring of the potential innovator and entrepreneur students of IGNOU.
4. IGNOU is organising *Udyamita Ki Ore* (उद्यमिता की ओर) – a fortnightly series of Teleconference Sessions focusing on discipline/ subject-wise areas of innovation, startup and entrepreneurship for IGNOU students.
5. A Virtual Incubator for students interested in innovations and entrepreneurship is in place.
6. Events like Festival of Ideas, IGNOU Startup Meets, Startup Fest, IGNOU Udyami Samagam and Startup *Mahotsav* are organized from time to time to provide a platform for showcasing the innovation, and startup initiatives of the students and alumni of IGNOU and to network with each other and mentors.
7. With the help of the IGNOU Regional Centres organise field visits of the students to local community to get an idea of the problems faced, and also to identify the right problem for devising an innovative solution. It further organises field visits to nearby incubators to understand the operational aspects and interact with different stakeholders to understand how they work on their tasks and challenges.
8. Special Schemes for Students: IGNOU offers several Schemes which are aligned with the Schemes of the Government of India, such as the IGNOU Udyami Scheme, “Idea to Startup” Scheme and “Mentoring for Startups” and the Institution’s Innovation Council to incubate the innovative ideas of the students. These Schemes identify the innovator students and promote, support and nurture them through training and awareness programmes, one-to-one mentoring sessions and personalised guidance to the students. More than 2200 students and alumni have registered in the IGNOU Udyami portal. Hundreds of students have been sensitized on pertinent topics related to innovation, entrepreneurship and Startups. An equal number of students have been motivated to develop their ideas to workable prototypes and business plans. Finally, more than 25 students and alumni have been motivated and supported to establish their enterprises in the past two years due to the efforts of the university.
9. In order to systematically foster the culture of innovation in the university by encouraging, nurturing and supporting young students to work on new ideas, IGNOU has set up *Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC)*.
10. On the basis of the National Innovation and Startup Policy of the MOE, NCIDE at IGNOU has designed, developed and implemented IGNOU’s Innovation and

Startup Policy (IISP). The IISP aims at streamlining and strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship activities in the University.

11. In order to document and disseminate the innovations, innovative practices and startups by IGNOU students and faculty, a monthly e-Newsletter on innovation – Ennovate is brought out regularly and circulated widely

(c) the details about the collaborations and partnerships established with domestic and international entities to enhance technological capabilities and foster innovation-driven entrepreneurship; and

Reply: The MoE may like to reply.

(d) the measures undertaken to strengthen Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection and create an enabling environment for the development and commercialization of indigenous technologies??

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, following is submitted:

1. Considering the importance of IPR in innovation and the help needed by the innovators in this area, IGNOU has set up a Patent Facilitation Unit to help and guide the innovators in this regard.
2. Awareness sessions are organised regularly on IPR, patent facilitation, company registration, setting up of startups, etc. so as to create environment for the same.

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

Rajya Sabha Provisionally Admitted Question Diary No. S143 for answer on 02.02.2024 regarding "Emerging Technologies and Digital Literacy Programmes".

- (a) whether the government sees emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, or the Internet of Things particularly promising;**
- (b) if so, the details of steps being taken to harness their potential;**

Reply (a & b): The MOE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University is promoting various emerging technologies in its teaching-learning processes including artificial intelligence & blockchain. The following courses are included in the MCA_NEW and MCAOL programmes:

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Data Science and Big Data, Digital Image Processing and Computer Vision, Cloud Computing and Iot, Mobile Computing

- (c) whether the government plans to focus on digital literacy programmes regarding the aforementioned technologies, especially in rural areas, to ensure that citizens are equipped with the skills to fully participate in the digital economy;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, reasons therefor?**

Reply (c to e): The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University is offering 45 online programmes including programmes relating to the Information Technology field. As a National Coordinator of SWAYAM, since 2017 IGNOU has offered 1344 programmes with more than 17 lakh registrations across India.

Also, as a National Coordinator of SWAYAM Prabha, IGNOU is managing 06 DTH channels catering to the educational needs of the learners including rural learners. The content in these channels are delivered in 13 Regional Languages i.e. Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Mizo, Manipuri & Urdu (besides Hindi and English).

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 243 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding "Higher/Technical Education to SC/ST Students".

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the 12th pass out SC/ST students of Navodaya Vidyalaya situated in SC/ST dominated areas are deprived of pursuing higher/technical education due to lack of money;**
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and**

Reply (a & b): The MoE may like to reply.

- (c) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any programme to provide higher/technical education to the said SC/ST students and if so, the details thereof?**

Reply : The MOE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University provides education to all at affordable cost. There is a scheme for SC/ST students for BA, BSc and B.Com general programmes where students can enroll and get fee reimbursement for these programmes.

Lok Sabha Provisional Starred Priority Question Diary No. 423 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding “Development of Tribal”.

- (a) whether the Government has transformed its approach to tribal development in the last nine years; and**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the key milestones and achievements of the Government’s tribal development initiatives?**

Reply (a to c): The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, IGNOU being a national University has jurisdiction throughout the country. As of now University is offering a certificate programme in tribal studies and the objective of the programme is to provide basic knowledge and information to the learners regarding the Tribes/Tribals in India and to help the learners understand the tribal ways of life in India. The programme hope to provide employment of learners in the tribal development departments in NGOs or other institutions and help individuals working in the social and welfare service sector targeted for the tribals to acquire professional education and will enable them to be trained, educated which in turn will help them better understand the issues and remove the bias if any formed during the course of their work. With the pressing need for trained professionals in tribal areas, the Certificate programme in Tribal Studies through distance learning will enable the in-service personnel in social and welfare sectors to enhance their competence.

Similar programmes are also being developed to promote the tribal communities by sensitizing the masses towards the culture of the tribal people across the country.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.477 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding "Skill Development and Entrepreneurship".

- (a) **the steps being taken by the Government to promote entrepreneurship/training among rural youth in various professions in rural areas including Maharashtra, State/UT-wise;**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University is offering Certificate, Diploma, Master Level Degree programmes in the area of information, Security, Business Process Outsourcing, Finance and Accounting, Communication and IT Skills, Fashion Design, Modern Office Practice, Pharmaceutical, Sales Management, Entrepreneurship and MSME.

Besides, Student Empowerment programme and training sessions are organized by the University to motivate students towards innovation, entrepreneurship and skill development on regular basis.

To reach the unreached in the far flung areas of country, a fortnightly teleconference session on Udyamita Ki Ore (towards Entrepreneurship) is also being organized on Gyan Darshan focusing on Innovation and Entrepreneurial Opportunities in different sectors. Six such episodes have been organized so far.

- (b) **the allocation and release of funds by the Government for entrepreneurship activities during the last five years, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra;**
- (c) **whether the Government has made an efforts to assess the efficacy and impact of these measures;**
- (d) **if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) **whether the Government proposes to set up training centers in each Parliamentary Constituency to provide training to the youth; and**
- (f) **if so, the number of such centers set up and the number of centres under consideration for setting up in Nashik Parliamentary Constituency, Ramtek and Nagpur districts in Maharashtra along with the details thereof?**

Reply (b to f): The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.969 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding "Programmes to Promote Skill Development in Rural and Underserved Areas".

- (a) whether any initiatives or programs has the Government undertaken to promote skill development across different sectors and industries;**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, the University is offering Certificate, Diploma, Master Level Degree programmes in the area of information, Security, Business Process Outsourcing, Finance and Accounting, Communication and IT Skills, Fashion Design, Modern Office Practice, Pharmaceutical, Sales Management, Entrepreneurship and MSME.

- (b) the steps taken by the Government to collaborate with educational institutions and industries to align skill development programs with the evolving needs of the job market;**

Reply: The MoE may like to reply.

- (c) the details on geographical reach of skill development programs and whether there are targeted efforts for rural and underserved areas;**

Reply: As far as IGNOU is concerned, the University is developing Skill Development Programmes to cater the needs of larger segment of the population and to promote the educational well being of the community generally.

- (d) whether there is any success stories or case studies that showcase the impact of India's skilled workforce in international markets; and**

- (e) whether the Government has any mechanism/plans to address potential challenges, such as the rapid advancement of technology that may impact the relevance of existing skill sets?**

Reply (d & e): The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.939 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding "Skill Education for OBC and SC Youth".

- (a) whether, in view of special needs of OBC and SC youths for skill education and training, Government has been running or has proposal to start special skill and entrepreneurship development programs for them in the country in general and in the Madhya Pradesh in particular;

Reply : The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, as of now the University is not offering any skill development programmes for youths of OBC and SC with special needs. However, IGNOU offers following programmes in all the States including Madhya Pradesh having skill education and entrepreneurship development programmes for all learners including OBC and SC youths also:

- 1 Master of Arts (Drawing and Painting) (MADP)
- 2 Bachelor of Performing Arts-Hindustani Music (Honours) (BAPFHMH)
- 3 Diploma in Theatre Arts (DTH)
- 4 Certificate in Performing Arts - Bharatnatyam (CPABN)
- 5 Certificate in Performing Arts - Hindustani Music (CPAHM)
- 6 Certificate in Performing Arts - Karnatak Music (CPAKM)
- 7 Certificate In Performing Arts -Theatre Arts (CPATHA)
- 8 Certificate in Visual Arts - Painting (CVAP)
- 9 Certificate in Visual Arts - Applied Arts (CVAA)

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) if not, reasons thereof?

Reply (b & c): Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Lok Sabha Provisionally Admitted Question Diary No. 678 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding "Suicide committed by students in Andhra Pradesh".

- (a) the number of suicides (male, female, and transgender) that were committed over the last four years in a district-wise manner for the state of Andhra Pradesh;**
- (b) the major factors identified to be the cause behind students committing suicide in Andhra Pradesh as per the Government studies/research;**

Reply (a & b): Does not pertain to IGNOU.

- (c) whether the Government has considering/implementing any scheme/ initiative/ program to actively tackle and reduce the number of students who commit suicide in India;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**

Reply (c to d): The MoE may like to reply.

- (e) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposal/ memorandum regarding tackling the issue of student suicides in the state and if so, the details thereof;**

Reply : Does not pertain to IGNOU.

Lok Sabha Provisionally Admitted Question Diary No. 1051 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding "Increase of Suicide Cases of Students in HEIs, IITs, IISERs, IIMs & NITs".

(a) the number of students committed suicide in HEIs including IIT'S, IIMS, NITS, Central Universities, IISERs since the year 2014; Institute-wise;

(b) the details of suicide of OBC/SC/ST students in IITs, IIMs and NITs in 2022-23, 2023-24;

Reply (a & b): The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, there is no suicide case of students in since 2014.

(c) whether the Government ascertained the cause of suicides of students of Higher Institutions; if yes, the details thereof;

(d) whether the pressure/mental strain causes such suicides of brilliant students;

Reply (c & d): The MOE may like to reply.

(e) whether the Government noticed that a number of students suicide cases are reporting from coaching centers like Kota; if yes, the details thereof;

Reply: Does not pertain to IGNOU.

(f) whether the Government plan to tackle the issue of growing instances of caste discrimination in Educational Institutions;

(g) whether the Government conducting any studies to analyse the root cause behind the rising number of suicides in Educational Institutes; if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the details of corrective measures taken by UGC to address the increase in suicide cases across Higher Educational Institutions?

Reply (f to h): The MoE may like to reply.

Lok Sabha Provisional Starred Priority Question Diary No. 571 for answer on 05.02.2024 regarding “Women Entrepreneurship”.

(a) whether the Government has launched programmes to promote women entrepreneurship in Tamil Nadu;

Reply : The MoE may like to reply. As far as IGNOU is concerned, University offers only general entrepreneurship programmes at Master level for all.

(b) if so, the details of the schemes/programmes implemented district-wise;

(c) the details of the capacity building programmes started by various Self Help Groups in different districts of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of the assistance provided to the Startups established and run by women in various districts of Tamil Nadu?

Reply (b to d): Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Reply to Rajya Sabha Provisionally admitted Question Dy. No. S1010/U580 and Rajya Sabha Admitted Unstarred Question No 503 for answer on 07.02.2024 regarding "Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Institutions" and "ICC in Higher education Institutes" respectively.

(a) whether all the central universities, IITs, IIITs, IIMs, and NITs have an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), if so, the details thereof, institute-wise;

Reply : Yes, Indira Gandhi National Open University has constituted an Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) at two levels; one is at University level i.e. Apex Committee Against Sexual Harassment (ACASH) and IGNOU Committee Against Sexual Harassment (ICASH) and second is at Regional Centres level i.e. Regional Centres Committee Against Sexual Harassment (RSDCASH).

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

Reply : Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) the details of the number of vacant positions on the ICC panels, institute-wise; and

Reply : There is no position vacant on ICC in IGNOU.

(d) the details of the sexual harassment cases reported by students, faculty and non-faculty staff in the central universities, IITs, IIITs, IIMs, and NITs, institute-wise, year-wise, in the past 10 years;

(e) the details of the action taken on the above-mentioned cases, along with the details of cases resolved.

Reply (d & e): In so far as IGNOU is concerned, summary of the sexual harassment cases and the status of their disposal at IGNOU Headquarter and at Regional Centers (RC)/Learner Support Centres (LSC) of IGNOU across the country reported by students, faculty and non-faculty staff in the University is as under:

At Headquarter :

Sl. No.	DEPARTMENT	Complainant/ Respondent	Action Taken
1	IGNOU HQ	Staff e -gyankosh vs Mr. Ravinder Kumar (d/w Attendant)	Was transferred to Admin and was under direct supervision of the Registrar.
2	IGNOU HQ	Ms. Ruchita Bisht vs. Mr. G.S. Pandey	Behavioral warning was given to both of them and case was dismissed as it did not come under the purview of Sexual Harassment.
3	IGNOU HQ	Ms Arti Kariholu vs Mr. Samual and Mr. Alok Sharma	Penalty of ' Censure' was imposed on both of them and they were transferred to other division.
4	IGNOU HQ	Ms. Sunita Kadyan (EDP) vs Virender Sharma (PS)	Behavioral warning was given and increment was withheld for one year
5	IGNOU HQ	Dr. Seema Johari vs Prof. Sunil Kumar	Case was closed as the complainant did not respond.
6	IGNOU HQ	Ms. Nagalakshmi vs male junior colleague of School	Complainant received anonymous letter and the identity of the person could neither be established through records nor by the complainant.
7	IGNOU HQ	Executive Asst. (admin) vs.	Case was dismissed as the case did not come

		colleagues	under the purview of sexual harassment.
8	IGNOU HQ	PH. D Scholar Ms. Swati Gupta vs Dr. Seema Johari	The case was dismissed as matter did not come under purview of Sexual Harassment
9	IGNOU HQ	PH.D Scholar Ms. Rukmini Datta vs Mr. Sunil and Mr. O.P. Kaushal	Case was dismissed as no evidence of sexual harassment was found.
10	HQ	Ms.Bhavna vs Prof.C R K Murthy	Major Penalty was imposed on the accused

At Regional Centers (RC)/Learner Support Centres (LSC) :

Sl. No.	Regional Centre	Number of Complaint (s)	Action taken
1	RC Karnal	1	The case was dismissed and the complainants who could be traced denied having filed the complaint.
2	RC Khanna	1	After thorough investigation, dismissed the complaint in the absence of evidence and as could not identify the complainant.
3	RC Deoghar	1	Dismissal of the case after investigation while advising appropriate action and enquiry at the level of the RC, RSD and SED.
4	RC Agartala	1	After thorough investigation, dismissed the complaint in the absence of evidence but gave some strong general recommendations.
5	VCO/RSDCASH	1	Letters received from Ms. Anugatamani Akhanda, Agartala for reinvestigation of her case which was closed by RSDCASH. Since the representation for reinvestigation was received after the stipulated period of 90 days of conveying the decision of RSDCASH and in the absence of any fresh evidence in the matter, reinvestigation of the case was not admissible.
6	RC Vishakapatnam under RC Vijayawada	1	Action taken by RCCASH after thorough examination the case was closed with suggestions advisories and warning to the defendant.
7	RC Vijayawada	1	The complaint was investigated by RCCASH Hyderabad. In the absence of any evidence in support of the complaint and the seeming fabrication of the complaint letter against AR, in the face of denial (written and oral) by the women employees of RC Vijayawada the case was closed.
8	RC Bhopal	1) The complaint was examined by RCCASH Bhopal and recommendations given by RSDCASH. The case was closed with strong advisories to be issued to students/participants before online counselling sessions/webinars.
9	RC Delhi-2	1	The matter was taken up by RCCASH Delhi-2 and the case was closed as it did not come in the purview of sexual harassment.
10	RC Delhi-1	1	Matter resolved and RSDCASH has recommended to inform formal closure of the case.
11	RC Pune	1	The matter was received on 15 th December 2021 and is under investigation by RCCASH Pune.

All the cases were disposed within the stipulated time.

Rajya Sabha Provisionally Admitted Question Diary No. S1253 for answer on 07.02.2024 regarding "Suicides in Educational Institutes".

a) **Whether the government has the data regarding the number of students who committed suicides in educational institutes such as IITS, IIMS, NITS, AIIMS and central universities in the country?.**

b) **If so, details thereof;**

Reply (a & b): The MoE may like to reply. In so far as IGNOU is concerned, there is no suicide case of students in till date.

c) **whether the government has conducted any study to find out the root cause of suicides in educational institutes across the country?**

d) **If so, details thereof and actions taken by the government to tackle the issue;**

Reply (c to d): The MoE may like to reply.