

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 9
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022**

Programme for International Student Assessment

†9. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India participates in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) to assess the Mathematics and Science literacy and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any alternative mechanism for comparing the educational status of India with other countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to collect data on existing gender gaps in achievements in the fields of science technology, engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Environment, Forests and Climate Change ?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) The Government of India had decided to participate in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) 2022 to be conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). However, Government of India relooked at the issue of participation of India in PISA 2022 in view of the impact of COVID pandemic and the stressful situation for children arising due to closure of schools for a long period in the country. Further, the vaccination of population below 18 years including children was not started by that time. Also to assess the situation, a sample based survey through National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 was conducted on 12/11/2021 across the country.

(b) In the field of Higher Education, the educational status of Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), viz-a-viz HEIs in other countries are assessed through ranking of universities at a global/regional level by a few well-known and credible ranking frameworks such as the Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings, QS World University Rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds, and

Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) conducted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai. In the QS World University Rankings 2023 released in June 2022, three Indian institutions made it to the top 200.

(c) Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education releases the Report on All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), which collects data identifying gender gap in Science and Technology is supporting projects on data collection in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Also, the Inter-Academy Panel on 'Women in Science' in India – comprising of India's three key national science academies; the Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc) Bangalore, The Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Delhi and the National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) Allahabad – in 2016 had released the 'Women in Science & Technology: A Vision Document', which paved the path forward for fulfilling the gender gap in STEM and allied fields. The link to the study: <http://www.nasi.nic.in/report%20-%20women%20in%20science%20&%20technology%20-a%20vision%20document.pdf> .

In addition, Department of Science and Technology (DST) is supporting projects on data collection in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). DST has published a report "Research & Development Statistics at a Glance 2019-20" which also includes gender gaps existing in achievements within the fields of STEM.
