

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding establishment of a central university in lower Assam region- laid.

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): One cannot dispute the fact that higher education plays a significant role in the development of human resources and society in general. However, the progress of higher education has not been optimum in the country particularly in Assam. Higher education produces high level of professionals.

Assam has a literacy rate of about 73% as per 2011 census. According to Gross Enrolment Ratio of Higher Education (2021), Assam's rate is 17.3% and national rate is 27.1%. The huge gap is due to lack of basic amenities and state of the art educational infrastructure in Assam. As Swami Vivekananda said, "A nation is advanced in proportion to education and intelligence spread among the masses".

To shrink the gap of 9.8% GER, there is a need to enhance the infrastructure of higher education in the state. In this regard, I would like to mention that lower Assam region is devoid of any major educational institutions. Many move out of the state for higher education thereby causing huge brain drain.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Education to consider establishment of a central university in lower Assam region, especially in and around Barpeta. Doing so will create educational hub in the region.