

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 27  
ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

**Increasing GER in Higher Education**

27. Shri Raja Ram Singh:  
Shri Rao Rajendra Singh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the Government plan to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50 per cent by the year 2035, with provisions for promotion of Indian languages other than Hindi and Sanskrit;
- (b) whether it is true that Lalit Narayan Mithila University is the only institution offering distance education in the Maithili language, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the university face admission restrictions during the last four years due to dual standards in UGC Regulations, 2020;
- (d) if so, whether this reflect a policy contradiction and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of applications received regarding this issue along with the actions taken by the Government and UGC in this regard; and
- (f) the impact of such policy on enrolment in backward regions along with the steps taken by the Government to resolve this?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a): As per National Education Policy 2020, the Government has planned to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education from 26.3% to 50% by 2035. Number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have increased from 51,649 in 2018-19 to 58,643 in 2022-23 (provisional). Number of students have increased from 37.4 million in 2018-19 to 44.6 million in 2022-23 (provisional). Number of HEIs offering online education has gone up from 7 in 2020 to 123 in 2025. Further, steps to improve the GER in India include expanding infrastructure by building new institutions and upgrading the existing ones, increasing financial supports through scholarship and funding and leveraging technologies by promoting online platforms like Swayam (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) and NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning).

(b): Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Bihar is a state university. The university was recognized to offer the MA (Maithili) programme from the academic year 2018–19 to 2019–20. Further,

Nalanda Open University, Bihar was also recognized to offer the MA (Maithili) programme from the academic year 2016-17.

(c) & (d): No recognition has been granted by the UGC (University Grants Commission) to Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Bihar after January, 2020 as the HEI was not fulfilling the minimum requirement for eligibility criteria as per the UGC ODL (Open and Distance Learning) Programmes and Online Programmes Regulations, 2020.

(e) & (f): UGC is inviting application from the eligible HEIs for two academic sessions i.e. July and January every year. Further, under UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, change in eligibility criteria was done to widen the number of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) eligible to offer ODL/Online programmes. Each application of the HEIs is assessed by the multiple Expert Committees and get opportunities for redressal by Appeal Committee.

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