

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5723
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025**

Initiatives to Increase Female Enrolment in Legal Education

5723. Shri Rajmohan Unnithan:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure higher enrolment of women in legal courses as there is a decline in enrolment of females in LL.B. courses;
- (b) whether the Government intends to formulate any special scholarships/schemes on par with STEM courses for women to pursue legal education; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): The Bar Council of India, established under the Advocates Act, 1961, is a statutory body entrusted with the responsibility of regulating legal education and the legal profession in India. As per data provided by the Bar Council of India, a total of 2,36,403 candidates registered for the All India Bar Examination-XIX (AIBE-XIX) held in the month of December, 2024 out of which 82,402 were female candidates, constituting 34.85% of total examinees. This reflects a steady participation of women in the post-qualification examination process and indicates a sustained interest in Law as a career.

While there is no statutory reservation under the Advocates Act, 1961, several Central and State Universities, as well as National Law Universities (NLUs), have taken

independent initiatives to promote legal education among women. These include merit cum means scholarships for female candidates, fee concessions, hostel subsidies, and the development of gender inclusive campuses. In some public universities, a limited number of seats are reserved for women under institutional quotas, facilitated by the enabling power of Article 15(3) of the Indian Constitution. Additionally, women focused legal awareness programmes are being conducted in rural and semi urban regions to improve access and motivation for legal education.

(b) & (c): With regard to the formulation of special or targeted scholarship schemes specifically for women pursuing legal education, on par with those introduced in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), University Grant Commission (UGC) is implementing the scheme of "Development of Women's Studies in Indian Universities and Colleges". This scheme provides funds for setting up Women Studies Centers (WSCs) in universities and colleges, focusing on teaching, research, curriculum development, training and outreach activities. Currently, while various scholarships for higher education are provided through the University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Education, and other State departments, there is no centrally administered scheme exclusively focused on promoting women's enrolment in law courses.
