

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO.62  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023**

**INITIATIVES UNDER UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN**

**62 Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of key initiatives undertaken under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and their impact on rural communities across the country;
- (b) the number of rural institutions actively participating in the programme, along with the nature of their engagement and their specific area of focus;
- (c) the extent of technology transfer facilitated by the programme, including technological interventions and their impact on improving the socio-economic conditions of the rural areas; and
- (d) whether the programme has helped in bridging the developmental gap between urban and rural areas in Karnataka and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.62 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023 ASKED BY SHRI  
IRANNA KADADI, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING  
“INITIATIVES UNDER UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN”.**

- (a) Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) connects Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country with the villages and local communities for identifying challenges faced by the rural communities and providing appropriate solutions to them. The key initiatives undertaken under UBA cover the five areas/themes of organic farming; water resource management; artisans, industries and livelihood; basic amenities (infrastructure & services) and renewable energy system, encompassing the ethos of holistic development. These interventions bring students closer to the issues of communities in rural India, making the student community more grounded with the realities in the country.
- (b) The UBA scheme covers 3480 HEIs, called Participating Institutions (PIs), which are both private & public in nature, and include institutes of repute, like, IITs, IIMs, IISERs, IISc, AIIMS, besides State Universities, etc. These PIs are based both in rural and urban areas. IIT Delhi is working as the National Coordinator for UBA. The PIs, through their students and faculty, work in the five established themes/areas identified under UBA. The engagement under the scheme works on the ethos of **knowledge sharing, participatory approach and convergence**. The challenges faced by primarily, rural communities are identified based on surveys conducted by PIs, and their participation in Gram Sabhas, based on which solutions are provided. PIs also collaborate with other stakeholders like voluntary organizations and District Administration.
- (c) UBA scheme is focused on technical interventions, covering technology dissemination (application of the already existing technical solutions) and technology customization (modifications of existing solutions to locational needs). Multiple MoUs have also been signed with various government and Civil Society organizations, like Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), North East Centre for Technology Application & Research (NECTAR), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), etc., for raising students' awareness about the challenges being faced by rural communities.

- (d) UBA focuses on bringing students closer to the village communities and coordinating with other government organizations with the ultimate goal of sensitizing students about the socio-economic conditions of villages and the issues faced by the communities there. Projects undertaken in Karnataka, like, providing IoT based automatic tank cleaner for drinking water, online healthcare app, rainwater harvesting, sewage treatment plants, are some examples where UBA intervention has impacted the quality of life of the village and local communities. The process of engagement between students studying in the HEIs of the country, with the rural youth and communities have empowered the students and communities.

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