

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.206
ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

206 # Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the PM Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched to meet the needs of the areas having no or very few Higher Education Institutions;
- (b) if so, the salient features of this campaign;
- (c) the States selected under this campaign in the country;
- (d) whether any place in Gujarat has been selected under this scheme; and
- (e) the arrangements being made for higher education at the places selected under this scheme, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Education has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) as Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) in June 2023 with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 Crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 to cater to needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, including in the rural areas, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/ UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/ Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc.

Under PM-USHA, a total of 33 States and UTs have signed the MoU for participating in the scheme. In the first and second meetings of Project Approval Board for PM-USHA, 440 units have been approved in various States /UTs with a total amount of Rs. 5613.12 Crore under various components including 32 units in Gujarat for an amount of Rs. 425 Crore.

The approval of projects under the scheme is based on the proposals submitted by the States/ UTs. As per PM-USHA guidelines, a range of activities including infrastructure upgradation, multidisciplinary education, promoting research and innovation, quality initiatives, higher uptake of e-learning/ virtual learning, etc. can be undertaken by the States/ UTs under various components as per their felt needs. Therefore, States/ UTs have the flexibility to utilize funds for undertaking the various activities outlined in their proposals approved by the Ministry.

The guidelines of the scheme of PM-USHA including the list of activities is available at https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/pm-usha_guidelines.pdf.