

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3561
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025

Infrastructure Developments and support for Educational Institutions

3561 Shri Sant Balbir Singh:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to improve the infrastructure of schools and higher education institutions across the country;
- (b) the kind of financial or technical support being provided to schools and Universities to enhance their educational offerings; and
- (c) whether there are any grants or funding opportunities available for institutions working on innovative educational projects?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) and (b): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the schools are under administrative jurisdiction of concerned States & UTs. Under the Centrally Sponsored schemes like Samagra Shiksha, STARS and PM Shri, States and UTs are supported for strengthening of existing government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities like Additional Classrooms, Toilets for Boys/Girls/CWSN, Drinking Water, Electricity, Boundary Walls, Library, ICT and Digital Classrooms, based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) database and proposals received from respective State/UT. The requirement of infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory on incremental basis depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by Project Approval Board (PAB) in consultation with the States and Union Territories as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme, physical and financial progress of works sanctioned earlier and availability of budgetary resources.

Ministry of Education is also implementing Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards.

The government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) 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. Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The scheme provides financial support under various components including Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU), Grants to Strengthen Universities (GSU), Infrastructure Grants to Colleges (IGC), Infrastructure Grants to University (IGU), etc. for improving access, equity and excellence in State Higher Education system as per the scheme guidelines.

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) has been created for funding Higher Educational Institutions, under the purview of D/o Higher Education. It provides interest free loan to Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions (CFHEIs).

(c): The Government of India is implementing various schemes under which financial assistance to educational institutions provided based on their performance and engagement in innovative educational initiatives. These schemes aim to promote excellence in education by supporting institutions that demonstrate significant contributions to research, innovation, and academic development. Example of such schemes are as under:

- **National Initiative for Design Innovation (NIDI):** The aim of the scheme was to promote, nurture and advance the culture of design and innovation in the country leading to significant contributions and breakthroughs impacting quality of human life, by setting up 20 Design Innovation Centers (DICs), One Open Design School (ODS), One National design innovation network (NDIN) and Project e-kalpa-III (2021) in various reputed Institutions like IIT's, IIIT's, NIT's, IISc, Central Universities and State Universities etc. across the country. The scheme adopted Hub and Spoke model with the Lead Institutes acting as the mentors while synergizing and leveraging the potential of the institutes at the field level.
- **AICTE IDEA Lab Scheme:** AICTE IDEA Lab scheme is meant for Idea Development, Evaluation and its Application. It is an initiative of the AICTE to promote innovation and ideation among students and faculty members of technical institutions in India. Facilities for supporting translation of ideas into prototype and training are being created under one roof.
- **Research Promotion Scheme (RPS):** AICTE has been running RPS Scheme to promote research in technical disciplines and innovations in established and emerging areas. The objective of this scheme is to create and update the general research capabilities of the faculty in the AICTE approved technical institutes for which funds up to Rs. 25 lakh per project are provided.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** NITI Aayog's flagship programme, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Govt. of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship through Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal Community Innovation Centres etc.
- Government of India through Higher Education Institutions like IITs implements various research and innovation projects like Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT); Uchchar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) etc.
