

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-351
ANSWERED ON-03/12/2025

STEM infrastructure in the rural areas of Raigarh and Konkan

351 # **Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that in the last three academic years there has been a decline in enrollment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects at the undergraduate level in the rural areas of Raigarh and Konkan;
- (b) whether it is a fact that most rural colleges in Raigarh do not have proper access to science laboratories, accredited teaching faculty, or digital STEM content such as SWAYAM and e-Yantra; and
- (c) the steps that have been taken under schemes like RUSA and PM-Usha to bridge the rural–urban STEM education gap?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the enrolment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects at the undergraduate level in the rural areas of Maharashtra has increased from 4.42 lakhs in 2020-21 to 4.5 lakhs in 2022-23. Similarly, enrolment in the STEM subjects at the undergraduate level in the rural areas of Goa has also increased from 6,955 in 2020-21 to 9,725 in 2022-23.

The Government of India has framed and approved the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to transform the education system to provide access to quality education to every learner. NEP emphasises using digital technologies and integration of online teaching platforms such as SWAYAM in higher education.

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) to make high-quality content accessible to learners free of cost with the approach of “Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime Learning”. To encourage more learners to participate in SWAYAM, local chapters have been set up across Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). In Raigarh district, there are 13 HEIs that host local chapters of SWAYAM. In the district, the total enrolment in SWAYAM courses for the year 2025 is 3133, which represents an increase of 28% from 2438 enrolments in the year 2024.

Further, e-Yantra has been initiated by Ministry of Education in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to enhance the knowledge of robotics and engaging students through hands-on projects. Within e-Yantra project, 'Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI)' has embedded robotics labs across the country including 8 in HEIs from the Raigarh district.

The government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USA) for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26, with an outlay of Rs. 12,926.10 crore, including the committed liabilities of the earlier phases of RUSA to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/underserved areas. The scheme envisages improvement in access, equity and excellence in State Higher Education system through support under various components viz., Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU), Grants to Strengthen Universities (GSU), Grants to Strengthen Colleges (GSC), New Model Degree Colleges (NMDC) and Gender Inclusion and Equity Initiatives (GIEI). Under the scheme, 613 units have been approved with a total amount of Rs.8,168.51 crore.
