

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2759
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

Affordable student accommodation facilities in Higher Educational Institutions

2759 **Smt. Sudha Murty:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by Government to expand affordable and secure hostel facilities in Central and State Universities for female students and those coming from EWS or rural areas;
- (b) whether the Ministry maintains a record of the demand-supply gap for campus accommodation in Higher Educational Institutions across the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the financial assistance or subsidies provided to colleges and Universities to build low-cost student housing, libraries and digital labs in Tier-2, Tier-3 and rural regions?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. The Government is committed to ensuring equitable access to quality higher education for all students, particularly those belonging to economically weaker families.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken various measures to facilitate access to affordable and secure hostel accommodation for students, including female students and students belonging to reserved categories and economically weaker sections.

All Central Universities are statutory autonomous organisations established under the respective Central Acts of Parliament and governed by their Acts, Statutes and Ordinances made thereunder. The Universities are competent to take administrative and academic decisions, including allotment of hostel accommodation, with the approval of their respective Statutory Bodies. At present, 47 Central Universities are fully funded by the UGC/Ministry of Education. These Universities are provided financial assistance under the Salary, Recurring, and also the Capital Assets heads, which is utilized for infrastructural requirements, including hostel facilities, by the Universities.

The Central Universities create additional hostel infrastructure from time to time to meet students' accommodation requirements. The Central Government supports development of university infrastructure, including hostels, through Grant-in-Aid and funding from

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA). It may be noted that during FY 2013-14, ₹ 5,603.79 crore was released as grant to Central Universities. From FY 2014-15 to FY 2025-26, ₹ 1,13,943.55 crore was released to Central Universities. During the year 2026-27, an amount of ₹ 17,440 crore has been allocated. These funds are utilized by the Universities for meeting their academic, administrative and infrastructural requirements in accordance with their priorities.

Furthermore, recognizing the need for central assistance, the Government of India is implementing Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), 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. In alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, 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-USHA) with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas.

Under PM-USHA, priority is given to focus districts which 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 district etc.

Under the scheme, support is provided to government and government-aided HEIs of States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including the construction and renovation of academic and administrative buildings, hostels, libraries, research facilities, digital laboratories, and other enabling facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education, along with strengthening research and innovation output through 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).

The GIEI component of PM-USHA aims to promote access, equity and inclusion in higher education for women and other under-represented groups, and supports interventions like construction of hostels & toilets for girl students, encouraging girls' participation in STEM courses, training of girls in self-defence, etc.

Additionally, the Government of India in the Union Budget 2026–27, has proposed for establishment of one Girls' Hostel in every district to improve access to higher education, particularly in STEM institutions, and to create affordable hostel capacity as core academic access infrastructure.
