

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 759
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.11.2016**

Development of Rural India

†759. **KUNWAR SARVESH KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the higher education institutions in the country are running any programme or course related to the development of rural India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps for running development programme in order to connect the Government educational and technical institutions with rural areas in the country; and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any efforts are being made in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (e) : Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has launched Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) on 11th November, 2014 to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. All higher educational institutions, which are funded by the Central/ State Governments and other eminent educational institutions have been advised to adopt clusters of Gram Panchayats in their vicinity, apply their knowledge and technical expertise to assist the local bodies/ district administration to formulate qualitative development plans for implementation and subsequent improvement in the quality of rural life.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is presently the coordinating institute for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. A National Steering Committee has been constituted comprising eminent scientist, technologists, educationists as well as representatives from six different Ministries of Government of India. Thirteen other premier institutions of Science, Technology and higher education have been enrolled to coordinate and engage in village development exercise in different regions of the country. Ninety Eight districts in the country have been identified for Phase-I of the programme. Twelve of the institutions are working as Subject Expert Group (SEGs) on various development aspects. Their resources and know-how will be accessible to other institutions working in the villages. The details of the programme are available on UBA's website <http://unnat.iitd.ac.in/index.php/en/> .

