

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1382  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2018**

**EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT**

**1382. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:**

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

- (a) Whether the Government has launched an initiative called 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' aimed at strengthening the country's unity and invited suggestions in this regard on its official portal;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
- (c) the response received from various quarters thereto along with the finding pattern proposed to be adopted for the said initiative?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Government of India has launched an initiative Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) to foster national integration by a co-ordinated mutual engagement process between States, Union Territories, Central Ministries, Educational Institutions and general public through linguistic, literary, cultural, sports, tourism and other forms of people-to-people

exchanges. The States/Union Territories besides key Central Ministries/Departments viz., Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Railways, Department of Sports and Department of Youth Affairs, in addition to Ministry of Human Resource Development, have formulated monthly Activity Calendars under the programme from mid-October 2017 to December 2018 covering a gamut of activities in the educational, cultural, geographical, social , tourism, sports, youth-related activities and sharing of best practices, encompassing a wide range of subjects. There are 16 paired-States/Union Territories, the details of which are available in [www.ekbharat.gov.in](http://www.ekbharat.gov.in). MoUs have been signed between the paired States/Union Territories. The Action Plans are followed up periodically under the EBSB Scheme. From October till date, States/UTs have conducted activities involving mutual interaction between the youth and others from their states. A compendium of cultures, languages, traditions, festivals etc., of all States/Union Territories has been prepared by NCERT named “India: Unity in Cultural Diversity.” A logo for EBSB has also been developed. Several States, Union Territories and educational institutions have commenced conducting various events under the programme with an integrative content relating to their paired States/Union Territories.

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