

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.914
ANSWERED ON 12/12/2022

Promotion of Higher Education and Research Based Study

914. SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote higher education and research based study in rural areas and small cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of new Universities/institutes/research centres opened in small cities during the last three years, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b): For the promotion of inclusive reach of Higher Education and Research Studies in rural areas the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) have taken various steps including establishment of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in rural areas and enabling digital reach of higher education in rural areas and small cities. The initiatives include SWAYAMPURABHA, a group of 34 free to air DTH channels providing high quality educational curriculum based course contents covering diverse disciplines for all teachers, students and citizens across the country; SWAYAM portal (www.swayam.gov.in) for providing online learning for students through virtual courses offered by the teachers in the Country, interacting with the teachers, taking tests, earning academic credits and transferring them on their academic records; UGC Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) Portal (https://ugcmoocs.inflibnet.ac.in/moocs_courses.php) where UG and PG MOOCs Courses offered on SWAYAM Platform have been archived and can be viewed by Students/ Learners/ Faculty without registration and e-PG Pathshala (<https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/>) where approximately 23000 Post Graduate e-content is available and is freely accessible for students/ faculty/ academic fraternity.

The Government has also launched the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in September, 2014 for connecting HEIs in the country with the society and villages.

(c): The UGC has informed that UGC maintains the list of recognized universities across the country. During the last three years 141 universities have been established. This State-wise list is available at https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/7122907_LSPQ-NO-914-Annexure-I-CPP-I-PU.pdf .
