

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1254
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

IDENTIFIED EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS

1254. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:

SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA:

SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified educationally backward districts especially in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe dominated areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for the development of educationally backward districts during the last two years;
- (e) the details of targets fixed and achieved in this regard;
- (f) whether the Government has also identified the educationally backward villages/towns particularly the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe dominated areas in Shrawasti and Balrampur of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The government has recently approved the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 to cater to needs of educationally unserved/underserved areas. Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrollment Ratio, the proportion of disadvantaged categories such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, etc. 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 (Accredited & Unaccredited Universities), Grants to Strengthen Colleges (Accredited & Unaccredited Colleges), New Model Degree Colleges and Gender Inclusion and Equity Initiatives. During the last two years (2021-22 and 2022-23), an amount of Rs. 608.63 crores was released to States/UTs as central share for the various projects approved under the previous phases of RUSA including those in unserved and underserved areas.

(f) & (g): As on date, the State of Uttar Pradesh has identified 38 Focus Districts. However, the districts of Shrawasti and Balrampur have not been included in the same by the State.
