

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th NOVEMBER, 2019

Educationally Backward Areas

†1278. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to enhance the level of education in Educationally Backward Districts;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the progress made through the said initiative; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI. RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (d): Yes Sir. An Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) had identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education was less than the national average of 12.4% based on 2001 census data.

Education being in the Concurrent List, creation of new institutions is the responsibility of both Central and State Government. However, recognising the need for central assistance, the Central Government has implemented various schemes supporting State Governments. In 2010, a Scheme for providing financial assistance to New Model Degree Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts was launched to increase access to higher education in EBDs. The scheme was later subsumed under the subsequently launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is aimed at inter-alia correcting regional imbalances in access to higher education, especially in unserved and underserved

areas by setting up quality higher educational institutions and upgrading existing ones. Apart from setting up Model Degree Colleges, RUSA has also supported the Educationally Backward Districts under various other components of the scheme such as Infrastructure Grants to Colleges and Universities, Equity Initiatives, Enhancing Excellence and Quality in select Universities etc.

As on date, the Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA has approved an amount of Rs. 5614.256 crores, under various components of RUSA for the 374 EBDs in the country.

To review the progress of the scheme in States/UTs, review meetings with the State Government/UT officials and beneficiary institutions are being undertaken regularly.
