

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 374  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

**Educationally backward districts in Maharashtra**

**\*374. SHRI VINAYAK RAUT**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether University Grants Commission (UGC) has identified those educationally backward districts in Maharashtra where Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is less than the national average;
- (b) if so, the names of the districts which have been identified in the Census, 2011; and
- (c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to increase the level of higher education in these districts?

ANSWER  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI. RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House

\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 374 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021 ASKED BY  
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING  
EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS IN MAHARASHTRA**

(a) & (b): 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. Amongst the 374 EBDs, 7 districts were identified in the State of Maharashtra viz., Buldana, Gadchiroli, Hingoli, Jalna, Raigarh, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

Under the erstwhile scheme of setting up of one model degree college in each of the 374 EBDs, UGC had approved one MDC each in the 7 EBDs of Maharashtra.

(c): Education being in the Concurrent List, creation of new institutions and enhancing the quality of education are the responsibilities of both the Central and State Governments. However, recognizing the need for central assistance, the Central Government has implemented various schemes for supporting State Governments. The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is being implemented by the Ministry of Education with the aim of promoting access, equity and quality. *Inter alia*, the scheme provides central assistance to States for creation of Model Degree Colleges, infrastructure grants to college and universities, creation of universities either through upgradation of existing autonomous colleges or clustering of colleges etc.

The Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA has approved an amount of Rs. 21 crores, under various components, for the 7 identified EBDs in the State of Maharashtra. The GER of Maharashtra has increased from 26.3 in 2011-12 to 30.2 in 2018-19.

\*\*\*\*