

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 95
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Promotion of Higher Education

*95 SHRI MANISH JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to promote higher education in remote areas of Jharkhand;
- (b) the details of the programmes/schemes launched by the Government to promote higher education in the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to expand existing schemes or introduce new ones for further enhancement of higher education infrastructure in remote regions of Jharkhand;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there are specific scholarships or financial aid available to support students from economically weaker sections in accessing higher education and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 95 ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024 ASKED BY SHRI MANISH JAISWAL, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING PROMOTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(a) to (d): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility 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. Various schemes/ projects/ programmes run by the Ministry have been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It has taken into account the concerns of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which inter-alia includes geographical identities such as students from villages, small towns, and aspirational districts and other categories. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes.

The Ministry has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) as Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) in June 2023 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. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, including in the rural areas, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. 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 Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/ Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc. Under the scheme, 104 units have been approved in Jharkhand for a total amount of Rs. 775.46 Crore under various components of RUSA and PM-USHA. An amount of Rs. 108.17 Crore has been released to Jharkhand in the last five years (from 2019-20 to 2023-24).

In addition, the details of the other various higher education projects under the Ministry in the State of Jharkhand and funds released during the last five years (from 2019-20 to 2023-24) is as given below.

S. No.	Name of the Projects in Jharkhand	Funds Released (Rs. Crore)
1	Central University of Jharkhand	388.94
2	Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad	1,584.31

S. No.	Name of the Projects in Jharkhand	Funds Released (Rs. Crore)
3	Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ranchi	167.68
4	Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Ranchi	66.82
5	National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur	534.57
6	National Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technology (NIAMT), Ranchi	191.08

(e): In order to provide scholarship/ financial aid to support students from economically weaker sections in accessing higher education, the Ministry is implementing Central Sector Schemes under the umbrella scheme Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana namely (i) PM-USP Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS), (ii) PM-USP Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh and (iii) PM-USP Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS). Besides these schemes, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing Ishan Uday Special Scholarship Scheme for North Eastern Region and National Scholarship for PG Studies to provide scholarship/financial support to students from economically weaker sections, in accessing higher education. Similarly, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is providing scholarship or financial aid through its Post Graduate Scholarship Scheme, PRAGATI Scholarship Scheme, SAKHSAM Scholarship Scheme and SWANATH Scholarship Scheme to support students from economically weaker sections in accessing higher education.
