

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**USTARRED QUESTION NO.961**  
**ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024**

**Release of Funds under PM Usha for Andhra Pradesh**

961. Dr. Byreddy Shabari:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is delay in release of funds under PM-Usha for the State of Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps and measures taken by the Government to expedite the release of funds to Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether there are any plans to increase the number of PM-Usha supported units for Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any plans to expand the scope of STARS project and if so, the details thereof particularly for Andhra Pradesh?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) as Pradhan Mantri Uchchar 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.

In the first and second meetings of Project Approval Board for PM-USHA, 25 units have been approved in Andhra Pradesh for a total amount of Rs. 275 Crore under the various components of the scheme. An amount of Rs. 88.72 Crore has been released to the State in the last five years (i.e. 2019-20 to 2023-24,). During a financial year, funds under RUSA/PM-USHA scheme are released to States/UTs, keeping in view fulfillment of certain conditions by the States such as submission of Utilization Certificates (UC), transfer of the corresponding State share, utilization of at least 75% of already released funds, States' compliance of conditions laid down by the Project Approval Board (PAB), compliance of instructions of Ministry of Finance and availability of funds in the financial year. Currently, an amount of Rs. 42.75 Crore is available with State in its Single Nodal Agency (SNA) bank account.

(d): In the Department of School Education and Literacy, the STARS Project is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in six states namely Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Kerala and currently there is no plan to expand the scope of the project in any State/UTs beyond these six States.

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