

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 121
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2025

Assessment and Implementation of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in Tamil Nadu

*121. Shri Malaiyarasan D:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the progress and effectiveness of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) in bringing sustainable rural development, especially in the Southern States including Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from Tamil Nadu that have been selected under UBA 1.0 and UBA 2.0;
- (c) whether the funds allocated to participating institutions have been adequate and released in a timely manner, if so, the details of fund released during the last five years;
- (d) whether any measurable socio-economic outcomes such as improved livelihoods, digital literacy, rural infrastructure or capacity building have been reported in Tamil Nadu under UBA, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, enhance institutional support and expand the programme to more rural clusters?

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. 121 ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026 ASKED BY SHRI MALAIYARASAN D, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING “ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN IN TAMIL NADU”.

(a) to (e) Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Education launched in September 2014. It connects Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), also called Participating Institutions (PIs), in the country with the villages and local communities to identify challenges faced by the rural communities. UBA aims to bring students closer to the village communities and other government organizations with the ultimate goal of sensitizing students about the socio-economic conditions of villages. It has created a wide network of stakeholders, viz., HEIs, government organizations, youth, NGOs, etc., to work across villages. The scheme focuses on sensitizing students of HEIs to the problems faced by villages and encourages them to work with villages to develop feasible solutions to these problems.

Under UBA 1.0 and UBA 2.0, in the state of Tamil Nadu, there is a network of 624 HEIs under the scheme covering 3120 villages. Further, 213 technology-based, managerial and societal interventions have been implemented under UBA, contributing to outcomes in livelihood enhancement, rural infrastructure, digital education and capacity building.

The Government has been providing financial support to the PIs under UBA, and funds have been released regularly and in a timely manner in accordance with the scheme guidelines. During the last five years, a total amount of Rs. 33.70 crores have been released under UBA scheme.

The Government has assessed the progress and effectiveness of UBA through periodic national-level evaluations by independent agencies. The scheme was first evaluated by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the year 2020-21. This has been again evaluated by the Indian Institute of Public Administration in 2025-26. These evaluations covered all States, including southern States and Tamil Nadu, and have concluded that UBA is a highly relevant and effective programme, uniquely combining academic objectives with grassroots rural development. It has also concluded that the scheme has created a strong foundation for participatory governance, social responsibility, and social innovation.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) of UBA to ensure ground level implementation of the scheme along with 50 Regional Coordinating Institute (RCIs) which ensure the region-specific management of the HEIs. NCI (IIT Delhi) is responsible for overall monitoring and implementation of UBA. The scheme is supported by Regional Coordinating Institutes (RCIs) and Subject Expert Groups (SEGs) and coordination with State Governments, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) to strengthen monitoring and expand coverage to more rural clusters.

Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to collaborate with UBA scheme through District Collectors/District Magistrates/other concern officers of the Districts, who are responsible for implementing NREGA at the district level. To expand the program to more rural clusters, Government is promoting the scheme by regularly communicating with the State Governments, District Administrations and line Ministries for providing adequate support to institutes engaged under UBA.
