

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4911**  
**ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026**

**Utilisation of Funds under PM-USHA and other Higher Educational Schemes**

4911. Shri Kunduru Raghuvver:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned, released and utilised under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) [earlier Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)], Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA), Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) and Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) during the last five years, State-wise including Telangana;

(b) the number of State Universities, Government Degree Colleges and research institutions in Telangana that have benefited under these schemes;

(c) whether the Government proposes to establish new Central Institutions, Model Degree Colleges or Research and Innovation Hubs in backward districts such as Nalgonda, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen digital higher education through SWAYAM portal and SWAYAM Prabha channels in rural and semi-urban regions to ensure equitable access to quality higher education?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): The government launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), with an outlay of Rs. 12,926.10 crore, including the committed liabilities of the earlier phases of RUSA, for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas. PM-USHA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards.

Under the scheme, a total of 94 units have been approved in the State of Telangana, with a total approved cost of Rs. 767.60 crore (Central share is Rs. 463.60 crore). Out of this, an amount of Rs. 57.4 crore (Central share) has been released to Telangana

during the last five years (i.e.,2020-23 to 2024-25) and the current FY (as on 18.03.2026). In the State of Telangana, 13 Universities and 75 Colleges have been approved support under RUSA/PM-USHA. Furthermore, in the district of Nalgonda, 5 units have been approved support for an amount of Rs. 31 Crore under various components of the scheme.

The government has set up Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) as a Section-8 company and registered with RBI as Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC). It provides fund to create quality infrastructure to all centrally funded Higher Educational Institutions under Ministry of Education. HEFA has sanctioned Rs 18458.30 Cr and released/utilised Rs.16479.62 Cr. during the last five years to different States including Telangana.

In pursuance to the Budget Announcement 2018-19, the Government had approved Prime Minister's Research Fellows Scheme (PMRF) with total financial outlay of Rs. 1650.00 Cr. The scheme aimed to attract the best and brightest minds to pursue high quality research in India's premier academic institutions with enhanced financial support which includes fellowship and research grant. Under PMRF, 3688 scholars have been admitted. Till date, Rs. 1282 crores have been released under the scheme.

The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) was launched on 28th October 2018 with an aim to improve the research ecosystem of India's Higher Education Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world to jointly solve problems of national and international relevance, with a budget outlay of Rs. 425.2 crores for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. Under the scheme, a total of 67 proposals have been approved in the State of Telangana.

The Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) Scheme aims to enrich Indian academic institutions through the participation of internationally reputed faculty, enabling access to global knowledge and expertise. The Scheme facilitates the conduct of specialized courses and academic interactions by foreign experts, thereby enhancing the quality of teaching and learning. It also promotes collaborative research, encourages innovation, and provides a structured platform for academic engagement. During the current year a total of Rs 14.23 crore has been released for 166 courses.

In the State of Telangana, there are several centrally funded higher educational institutions including University of Hyderabad, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal, etc. Furthermore, under RUSA, 7 New Model Degree Colleges have been established in the State of Telangana with a total amount of Rs. 12 Crore each.

Under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform hosts content curated by premier institutions and is available free of cost with the approach of "Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime" Learning.

Further, University Grants Commission has issued (Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) Regulations, 2021, which enables institutions to allow upto 40% of the total credits being offered in a particular programme in a semester through SWAYAM Platform. To make credits from Swayam platform more accessible, Ministry of Education has also allowed the Universities that accept SWAYAM credit, to take the SWAYAM proctored examination in their own campuses for their student.

As on date, 415 universities have adopted SWAYAM Courses for credit. More than 4400 unique courses have been offered through SWAYAM. These courses have witnessed cumulative enrolments of more than 6 Crores.

Further, with a vision to promote equitable access to quality learning, the Government is implementing the SWAYAM Prabha project under NMEICT, which provides curriculum-based educational content through a network of 48 Direct-to-Home (DTH) television channels. As on date, educational video lectures with a cumulative duration of over 94,000 hours are available on the web platform.

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