

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2849
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

**SETTING UP OF NEW MODEL DEGREE COLLEGES IN
ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS**

2849 SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Governments can propose or are eligible to set up New Model Degree Colleges in Aspirational Districts which have been funded under “New Model Degree College component” of RUSA 2.0;
- (b) if so, the proposal and criteria fixed for setting up an additional Model Degree Colleges in the Aspirational Districts and in other blocks of the same district having no colleges and the funds estimated and target set for these colleges;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the districts across the country, if so, the details of the number of districts identified in Assam;
- (d) the details of such colleges set up so far in various States particularly in Odisha;
- (e) whether the Government is reconsidering to reduce the NAAC Grade and Universities (MERU) component; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (f): The government has approved the next phase of RUSA in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore for the FY 2023-24 to 2025-26. The States/UTs have been given the flexibility to identify their focus districts based on certain indicators such as low GER, Gender parity, Aspirational districts etc. As per the guidelines of the scheme, various criteria have been included for shortlisting the proposals submitted under all components including New Model Degree Colleges and Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU). The detailed guidelines of the scheme, including the short-listing criteria and funding details are available at https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/pm-usha_guidelines.pdf.

Under the 1st and 2nd phases of the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), support for Model Degree Colleges in 130 districts was approved including 14 districts in Odisha namely, Balangir, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Debagarh, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sonapur and Boudh.