

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1767  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether higher education is a pro-rich and urban phenomenon and the participation of SC/ST in higher education is abnormally low as compared to their population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government on the imbalance in the urban and rural scenario?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005, which has already come into force w.e.f. 20th January 2006 enables appropriate laws to be made for the advancement of the weaker sections in matters of admission to all educational institutions, except minority institutions. Each State can make appropriate laws for the purpose. A draft Central legislation in pursuance of the above is under consideration. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also introduced special programmes for promotion of higher education in rural and backward areas. Relaxation has also been granted in eligibility conditions to the colleges located in rural and backward areas for availing assistance under general development grants from the Commission.