

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1715  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008  
UNIVERSALISATION OF EDUCATION  
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Sai Shri Nand Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has universalized education in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of open schools and central universities functioning as on date in the country, State and Union Territory-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to expand such schools/universities to enable the backward population living in the remote/hilly areas of the country to get benefits of such schools and universities? ANSWER

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): India is a signatory to the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations (UN) and accordingly aim to provide Universal Primary Education for All (EFA) by the year 2015. As part of India's commitment to UN the Government has launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the year 2002 which aims to achieve Universalisation of elementary education in a time bound manner by the year 2010. The Central Government has decided to implement during the XI th Plan a centrally sponsored scheme for Universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within five kilometres of every habitation. It is also proposed to set up six thousand good quality secondary schools at Block level, at the rate of one school in each Block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area.

(b) The number of Open Schools and Central Universities functioning as on date in the country, State and Union Territory-wise is as follows:-

Sl. No.	State/ UT	No. of State Open Schools	No. of Central Universities
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1
3	Assam	-	2
4.	Delhi	-	4
5	Haryana	1	-
6	Jammu and Kashmir	1	-
7	Karnataka	1	-

8	Kerala	1	-
9	Madhya Pradesh	1	-
10.	Maharashtra	-	1
11.	Manipur	-	1
12.	Meghalaya	-	1
13.	Mizoram	-	1
14.	Nagaland	-	1
15.	Punducherry	-	1
16	Punjab	1	-
17	Rajasthan	1	-
18.	Sikkim	-	1
19.	Tamilnadu	1	-
20.	Tripura	-	1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	-	4
22.	West Bengal	1	1
TOTAL		10	23

(c): National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is committed to spreading education amongst educationally backward groups and has significantly expanded its network of accredited institutions for its Academic, Vocational and Basic Education Programmes which has now increased to more than 3400 all over the country and abroad. NIOS has set up eleven Regional Centres and has opened three Sub-Centres to facilitate learners. NIOS is pursuing State Governments to open State Open Schools and upgrade already existing State Open Schools.

The Xlth Plan envisages the setting up of 30 more Central Universities in addition to the existing 23 Central Universities in the country.