

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:250
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
SURVEY ON EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

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

- (a) whether any survey on educationally backward districts in the country has been conducted by the University Grants Commission (UGC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action plan has been drawn up for the educational development of those districts;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.250 FOR 16TH DECEMBER, 2008 REGARDING `SURVEY ON EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS` ASKED BY SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGGRA.

(a) and (b): No,Sir.The University Grants Commission (UGC) has not undertaken any survey on educationally backward districts. However, based on the population data of Census 2001 and the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for the relevant group of 18 to 24 years,an Expert Committee constituted by the UGC to prepare a Detailed Project Report for establishing model colleges in educationally backward districts of the country has identified 374 districts where the GER in higher education was less than the national average. A list of these districts is given in the ANNEXURE.

(c) & (d): In order to increase the GER in these districts as well as to increase access of the under-privileged and weaker sections of the society to higher education, the Central Government proposes to provide assistance to States for setting up one Model College in each of such districts which have GER less than the National Average.The financial assistance in this regard will be to the extent of 1/3`d of the capital cost, with an upper limit of Rs. 2.67 crore per college,which will be routed through the UGC to the State Universities for establishing these colleges as their constituent units. The State _ Universities or the State Governments, as the case may be, would be required to contribute the balance 2/3`1 of the capital cost, besides taking care of the recurring cost. States have also been advised to locate these colleges in those blocks/towns which have a substantial population belonging to SC / ST/ minorities and other weaker sections. During the XI Plan, Rs. 782 crore have been earmarked for meeting Central share for setting up such colleges.