

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:936
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013
IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION SECTOR
Putul Kumari Smt. ;Singh Sarika

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the shortcomings in the education sector;
- (b) if so, whether any announcement has been made to provide special funds for doing research and quality improvement in education;
- (c) if so, the names of the States which have provided figures relating to research and quality improvement in the education sector during the last three years;
- (d) whether funds are being allocated to the States which are lagging behind in research; and
- (e) if so, the State-wise details of funds allocated for the above purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): The Government is aware of the need to correct imbalances and gaps in higher education especially in the State sector. The Government has recently launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) called the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), which seeks to provide strategic support and funding to State universities and colleges for quality improvement and infrastructure upgradation. During the 12th Plan period, an amount of Rs. 1200 crores has been earmarked for research, innovation under RUSA.

(c): No States have provided figures relating to research and quality improvement in higher education. However, under RUSA, the States are required to conduct baseline surveys and prepare State perspective plans, which would include figures and activities relating to research and quality improvement.

(d): The University Grants Commission (UGC) was providing grants for research and quality improvement directly to Universities and colleges so far. Under RUSA, for the first time, States are made eligible to receive grants directly from Central Government. The allocation of funds for States would be determined by a critical appraisal of their perspective plans based on certain norms including performance in research.

(e): No perspective plan of any State has been received by the Centre as of now. However an amount of Rs. 47.05 crores has been released to 17 States for undertaking preparatory activities under RUSA, including the preparation of perspective plans. Details are available at <http://mhrd.gov.in/rusa>.