

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:304
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism to identify educationally backward districts in order to raise the standard of education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the findings made so far;
- (c) the number of educationally backward districts identified in the country, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh;
- (d) the details of the schemes formulated to raise the standard of education in such districts, State-wise; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken during the last three years to remove educational backwardness in such districts?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. An Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) had identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education was less than the national average of 12.4% based on 2001 census data.

(c): The list of these 374 EBDs, state-wise including Madhya Pradesh is at Annexure.

(d) & (e): In 2010 a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) was launched to set up one Model Degree College (MDC) in each of the 374 EBDs. The scheme was later subsumed under a new CSS called the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is aimed at inter-alia correcting regional imbalances in access to higher education, especially in unserved and underserved areas, by setting up quality higher educational institutions and upgrading existing ones.

As per RUSA norms, each EBD is entitled to a maximum of Rs. 12.00 crore for establishing of an MDC. So far 110 MDCs under both the CSS have been approved.