

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:832  
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014  
EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS  
Devi Smt. Rama

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the educationally backward districts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the criteria/norms adopted by the Government for identifying such districts;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to bring these districts at par with other districts in respect of education; and
- (e) the success achieved by the Government in this regard as a result thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes Madam.

(b) & (c): 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 the 2001 census data. The list of 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) in higher education is at Annexure.

(d): 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 Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

(e): As a result of these efforts, 109 MDCs have been sanctioned in these districts. As per the All India Survey on Higher Education report 2011-12 (provisional), the GER in higher education in the country has now increased to 20.4%.