

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6524  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015  
SCIENCE AND LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES  
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of science and liberal arts colleges in Delhi and other major cities in the country keeping in view their demand and shortage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for setting up of these colleges in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Education being in the concurrent list, setting up new institutions is the responsibility of both the state and central government. The thrust of the 12th Plan is on expanding the existing capacity instead of creating new institutions.

However, recognizing the needs of higher education, the government has launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), which is envisaged as the prime vehicle for strategically funding and reforming the state higher educational system in order to address the issues of not merely access but equity and quality as well. RUSA seeks to expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions and correct regional imbalances and provide access to quality education in unserved and underserved areas. Accordingly, RUSA supports the establishment of one model degree colleges (MDC) in each of the identified 374 educationally backward districts (EBD) and upgrading existing colleges to MDCs in other non-EBD districts. It also supports the establishment of professional colleges in unserved and underserved areas.