

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:267
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015
Access to Education
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

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

- (a) the percentage of rural and urban students who have access to education beyond higher secondary schooling in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the reasons for huge disparity in access to education beyond higher secondary schooling between urban and rural areas; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government to address the issues?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Rural-urban differential in terms of access to education beyond higher secondary schooling in the country is not available. However, in order to expand educational opportunities in 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs), the Central Government had, in 2009, launched the scheme of setting up of 374 Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio for higher education less than the national average. The scheme of setting up MDCs has since been subsumed in the Twelfth Five Year Plan under a new scheme called the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which aims to achieve equity, access and excellence in state higher education system. The scheme supports components such as upgrading autonomous colleges to universities, clustering colleges to establish a university, setting up of new professional colleges in un-served and underserved areas as well as providing infrastructure grant to universities and colleges to scale up capacity.
