

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3863
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
SHORTAGE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the shortage of higher educational institutions is being felt after making education a fundamental right;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to set up educational institutions as per the requirement and demand of the students seeking higher education in the country; and
- (d) the extent of success achieved in this regard as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right. Pursuant to that, Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act was enacted in 2009.

The Central Government is aware of certain critical gaps and regional imbalances in access to higher education. An Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) had identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) where Gross Enrolment (GER) in higher education was less than the national average of 12.4%, based on 2001 census data.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) was launched in 2009 to set up one Model Degree College (MDC) in each of the 374 EBDs in order to increase GER in the country by providing greater access to higher education in these districts.

(c) & (d): During the 11th Plan, the Central Government has created 16 new Central Universities, 08 new Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), 07 new Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), 10 new National Institute of Technology (NITs) and 5 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs).

Under the erstwhile CSS of establishing one MDC in each of the identified 374 EBDs of the country, 64 MDCs were sanctioned. During the 12th Plan, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has also launched a new CSS namely the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for improving access, equity and quality in the State higher education system. The RUSA provides for the capacity enhancement of existing institutions and the creation of new ones. The CSS of setting up of MDCs has since been subsumed under the new CSS of Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and 50 MDCs more have been approved under RUSA. Further, 04 new universities by converting colleges in a cluster and 08 new professional colleges have been approved under RUSA.

The Central Government has also enacted the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, which provides for the establishment of one Indian Institute of Management (IIM), one Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), one National Institute of Technology (NIT), one Central University, one Tribal University, one Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), one Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), one Petroleum University, one Agriculture University, one National Institute of Disaster Management and one All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) type of institute, in the successor state of Andhra Pradesh. The Act also provides for one Horticulture University and one Tribal University in the state of Telangana. Besides this, the Central Government has also decided to set up 4 new IITs and 5 new IIMs in various parts of the country.