

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3778

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015

Accessibility to Higher Education

Kher Smt. Kirron,Sreeramulu Shri B.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 45 per cent males and 22 per cent females in rural areas and 17 per cent males and 13 per cent females in urban areas have completed graduation or above level education and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the average number of years of education in rural areas is much less than the national average and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase average number of years of education and to increase student interest in higher education in the country, especially in rural areas?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): As per Census 2011, a statement showing percentage of graduates and above to population aged 7 and above in the country is given below:

<pre>

Male (%) Female (%) Persons (%)

Rural 4.3 1.9 3.1

Urban 15.3 12.1 13.8

Total 7.8 5.1 6.5

</pre>

(c): To attract students to higher education, the government has taken several initiatives such as opening of new institutions, scholarship and interest subsidy on educational loans availed by the students. Extensive use of ICT applications is also being made in furtherance of higher education in the country. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*