

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1368

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2017

Backward Districts

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- a) the criterion laid down by the Government to identify educationally backward districts in the country;
- (b) the number of districts identified as educationally backward in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government in the country to eradicate educational backwardness and to improve the standard of education in the said districts;
- (d) whether the Government has provided adequate funds under the said schemes/programmes during the said period;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, Scheme/ Programme-wise and State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) & (b) An Expert Committee constituted by the University Grant Commission (UGC) had identified 374 Districts in the country as Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education was less than the national average of 12.4% based on 2001 census data. Statewise list of these EBDs is at Annexure-I

(c) In the year 2010, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) was launched to set up one Model Degree College (MDC) in each of the identified 374 EBDs to increase access to higher education. The scheme was later subsumed under the new CSS of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is aimed at inter-alia correcting regional imbalances in access to higher education, especially in unserved and underserved areas by setting up quality higher educational institutions and upgrading existing ones.

(d) & (e) State/UT-wise funds released under the Scheme - Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) to set up Model Degree College (MDC) in Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) during the years 2013-14 to 2016-17 is at Annexure-II.

(f) In order to focus on the areas where the literacy levels are low, the Department of School Education & Literacy (SE&L) has identified Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya scheme is being implemented under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for girl students of classes VI-VIII in the EBBs across the country. The Girls Hostel scheme under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) for students of classes IX-XII is also being implemented in EBBs. Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme for children studying in Classes I-VIII and Saakshar Bharat Programme are also being implemented throughout the country to improve literacy.
