

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the number of such districts where SC/ST population is more;

(d) whether Government has formulated any special scheme to focus on SC/ST population;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) had identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education was less than the national average of 12.4%, based on the 2001 census data.

(c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has not conducted any such study.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The UGC has initiated various Fellowship programmes namely Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships, Post-Doctoral Fellowships and Post-Graduate Scholarships in Professional courses for SC/ST candidates to undertake advanced studies and research leading to M. Phil/ Ph.D. Degree in Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences including languages and Engineering and Technology. The objective of the Fellowship schemes is to provide opportunities to SC/ST candidates for doing advanced research in their chosen areas. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs offer scholarships such as Post Matric scholarship; Pre Matric scholarship (for IX and X class); Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme; National Overseas scholarship; Scholarship scheme of top class education; Upgradation of Merit etc. for SC and ST students respectively.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) and (e) above.

Model schools in backward blocks

†1609. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy for opening of model schools in backward development blocks and the criteria adopted for identifying such blocks;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether expenditure in this regard will be borne by the Central Government or the State Governments; and

(c) the procedure for giving the proposal to open model schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The Government is implementing Model School Scheme which envisages *inter alia* setting up of 3,500 schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State/UT Governments. The EBBs have been selected based on twin criteria of Female Rural Literacy rate being below the national average and Gender Gap in literacy being above the national average.

(b) Under the State sector component of Model School Scheme, the sharing pattern between the Center and the State/UT Governments is 75:25 except Special Category States and for upgraded Ashram schools in all States, for which the sharing pattern is 90:10.

(c) Proposals for setting up of model schools under State sector component of the scheme are formulated by the concerned State/UT Governments and approved by the Government of India as per the scheme norms.

Elections to student unions

1610. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) the details of Central universities in which elections to students' unions have been held during 2014-15;

(b) the details of Central universities in which such elections have not been held during 2014-15 along with the reasons therefor, university-wise;

(c) whether students from Banaras Hindu University have represented the Minister during her recent visit to Varanasi regarding revival of students union and abolition of student council;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the response of Government thereto; and

(f) by when the students' union in BHU would be revived?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) Information regarding elections to Student Unions in Central Universities is not centrally maintained.