

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 37**  
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022

**IDENTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS**

**37. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified educationally backward districts especially in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) what are the steps taken by Government for the development of educationally backward districts during the last five years; and
- (c) the details of the targets fixed vis-a-vis achieved in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(Dr. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a): 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 2001 census data. The State-wise details regarding EBDs may be seen at [https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/upload\\_document/EBDs\\_List.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/EBDs_List.pdf).

(b) & (c): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. However, recognizing the need for central assistance, the Central Government has implemented various schemes for supporting State Governments. Department of Higher Education is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) with aim to promote access, equity and quality, inter alia. The scheme provides central assistance to States for creation of Model Degree Colleges, Infrastructure grants to college and universities, etc.

The Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA has approved an amount of Rs. 2477.00 crores in the last five years (since 2017-18 to 2021-22), under various components in the identified EBDs in the country. The district-wise details of approvals in the EBDs in the last five years is at [https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/upload\\_document/EBDs\\_Approvals.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/EBDs_Approvals.pdf).

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