

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 208**  
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

**MODEL DEGREE COLLEGES**

208. SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has the data of educationally backwards districts of the country where the Gross Enrolment Ratio is less than the national average;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether Government has planned to set up Model Degree Colleges in those educationally backwards districts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the funds estimated for these colleges; and
- (f) by when, these colleges are likely to be set up?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (f) The government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 to cater to needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas. Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/ UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/ Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc. Tamil Nadu has not signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry to implement PM-USHA in the State.

The scheme envisages improvement in access, equity and excellence in State Higher Education system through support under various components viz., Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU), Grants to Strengthen Universities, Grants to Strengthen Colleges, New Model Degree Colleges (NMDC) and Gender Inclusion and Equity Initiatives. Under the scheme, 440 units have been approved with a total amount of Rs. 5613.12 Crore under various components.

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