

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3774  
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

**Incentives to States for New Higher Educational Institutes**

3774. Shri Malaiyaran D:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced any scheme to incentivize States for establishing new higher educational institutions or expanding existing ones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria for selection of Institutes under the scheme along with the nature of incentives provided;
- (d) the progress made so far in its implementation;
- (e) the budget allocated for Tamil Nadu for this purpose and the funding mechanism for supporting the establishment or expansion of these institutions; and
- (f) the impact of this scheme on improving access to higher education in underserved regions and meeting the growing demand for higher education?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (f): Ministry of Education is implementing Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards.

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.

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 (GSU), Grants to Strengthen Colleges (GSC), New Model Degree Colleges (NMDC) and Gender Inclusion and Equity Initiatives (GIEI). Under the scheme, 615 units have been approved in various States/UTs with a total amount of Rs. 8178.71 Crore under various components.

Since the inception of the scheme in 2013, a total of 99 units with a central support of Rs.526 Crore have been approved in the State of Tamil Nadu under various components. Out of this, an amount of Rs.416.13 Crore has been released to the State, so far.