

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON RUSA

Q 1: By when will the money for Model Degree Colleges be released? Will the money be released within this financial year or 2014-15?

Ans: The money will be released to States for setting up Model Degree Colleges, (which have been approved by the Project Approval Board), only after ensuring that States have complied with the checklist. Yes, 1st installment of money will be released for those MDCs which have been cleared in 13-14, and subsequent release will be based on the utilization of the 1st installment.

Q 2: Is there a way around for states that have missed the first deadline for submitting checklist and undertaking?

Ans: Requests received from States after the first deadline were placed before the RUSA Mission Authority on 8th January. The Mission Authority has given in principle approval to consider the states that have submitted their checklist and undertaking after the first deadline. They will now be placed before the Project Approval Board for release of resources. States which have applied subsequent to 8th January will be considered for inclusion in RUSA in the next Mission Authority meeting.

Q 3: Will there be workshops on state level to deliberate on the RUSA scheme document and Guidelines? Will support be provided for formulation state plans?

Ans: Yes, the RUSA Resource Centre has been supporting some states in holding sensitization workshops. In addition, some States have approached the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai to help them understand the scheme document and also offer support in understanding the preparation of State Plans. States can hire any agency of their choice for providing professional support for preparation of State Perspective Plans.

Q 4: Will all the faculty positions under RUSA be funded by MHRD?

Ans: Yes, faculty positions will be funded based on certain norms and preconditions. Please refer to the RUSA guidelines for further details. Faculty positions will be supported only after the states cross the student faculty ratio of 20:1.

Q 5: Institutional Plans will have to be submitted to MHRD or SHEC?

Ans: Institutional Plans will have to be submitted to the State Council for Higher Education / State Department of Higher Education or any other interim body as decided by the State, till the formation of the State Council for Higher Education.

Q 6: Do the states have to open a separate bank account for receiving RUSA finances?

Ans: Yes, states have to maintain a separate RUSA account in the State Higher Education Council. A separate account code, if created by the State and the RUSA account number needs to be shared with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for transfer of funds. These will have to be aligned with Public Finance Management System under the Comptroller General of Accounts for smooth flow of funds and better monitoring and efficient utilization of resources.

Q 7: How to return the unutilized money which was received under the Model Degree Colleges Scheme?

Ans: The States may write to the Mission Director, RUSA on this regard and be guided by the response from the Mission Director.

Q 8: Which is the starting year for Baseline survey for the SHEP and IDP?

Ans: The starting year for the baseline will be 2012-13.

Q 9: Is there a criterion for deciding Tier1-3 cities in states?

Ans: These are notified by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. Please also refer to such categorization by the Central Public Works Department.

Q 10: Will the TSG help States in framing SHEP?

Ans: It will be desirable for the TSG to help States in providing support to States/State Council in the preparation of the State Higher Education Plan.

Q 11: What will the role of colleges be in framing IDP?

Ans: Each College/University has to prepare a Institutional Development Plan as mandated under RUSA. All these Institutional Development Plan will be dovetailed into a State Higher

Education Plan by the State Council for Higher Education or any other body in the interim till the SCHE is formed.

Q 12: What methodology do colleges adopt for SWOT analysis?

Ans: There is no specific methodology.

Q 13: How are the ratings and tables to be calculated in Table 2.13 of the IDP?

Ans: Institutions and States are only requested to provide data against the indicators reflected in the said column. The ratings will be calculated by the RUSA Resource Centre, subsequently, against present ratings. The RUSA resource center will revert for further information from Institutions and States on Future ratings.

Q 14: Does the State Plan include technical institutions, like engineering, agriculture and other technical fields?

Ans: State Plan should include information on all Government, Government aided and Private Institutions across disciplines. However, support will only be provided to Government and Government aided institutions. All govt. and aided colleges (including engineering, professional, agricultural except medical colleges) will be covered.

Q 15: Does the State Plan include private or unaided institutions?

Ans: Yes, State Plan has to include information on private/unaided institutions. But support will be available only to govt. and aided colleges and universities.

Q 16: Is there any official government notification that lists out cities/towns as Tier 1, Tier 2 and Hilly Areas/ mega cities/ metro cities?

Ans: Yes, the Ministry of Urban Development has listed out different categories of cities and towns depending on the geographical size and population.

Q 17: What is the upper limit with regards to the cost estimates for the civil works?

Ans: Please be guided by the State SSR rates/CPWD rates. Please also note that the programmatic norms fixes limits to total costs of infrastructure. RUSA support will be available only for the total costs mentioned. Any additionality, over and above the ceiling has to be met by states fully.

Q 18: What criteria should be followed under RUSA with regards to the student- teacher ratio and teaching, non teaching ratio?

Ans: The RUSA guidelines explicitly state that it is desirable to have a student – teacher ratio of 15: 1 and 1:1.1 in case of Teaching to Non-Teaching Staff.

Q 19: Where can data regarding District wise CPI, GER, etc be found?

Ans: This information can be found either through the National Sample Survey Organization data or through the State Census information. Of course, some of the indicators will have to be calculated and inferred from the data available. Some may need fresh data collection through baseline surveys etc.

Q 20 : What is the meaning of committed unspent amount and uncommitted unspent amount?

Ans: Committed unspent amount refers to unspent balance on items for which monies have been committed.

Q 22: How to calculate Present Rating & Present Score and Target Rating & Target Score?

Ans: Answered above at Q.13

Q 23: How to calculate Current Index and Target Index for various norms?

Ans: Answered above at Q 13

Q 24: Whether Private Colleges and Universities (Non-Aided) should prepare their Institutional Development Plan? Are they eligible for some components?

Ans: The State may consider having Institutional development Plans for Private Colleges and Universities (un-aided). However, information on them should be reflected in the overall State Plans. These institutions will however, not be eligible for any grants.

Q 25: Whether in all components Aided Private Colleges would get financial assistance under RUSA? If not in which components assistance shall not be allowed?

Ans: Aided Colleges will only receive funding for components such as conversion of colleges to Universities, Creation of Cluster Universities, and Infrastructure Grants. The State Higher Education Council may also consider providing additional support to these institutions from other components depending on their need and justification.

Q 26: In Chhattisgarh, One aided private college is autonomous college. Whether it is entitled to get funds in all the components under RUSA?

Ans: Yes, it is only eligible to get grants from components under the RUSA scheme meant for colleges. However, the State Council for Higher Education can consider providing additional support to it depending on its needs and justification depending from amongst other components.

Q 27: There are a few Institutions which are centrally funded (One Central University, NIT, AIIMS etc). Would they submit their Plans/Projects through Chhattisgarh SCHE or directly to RUSA National Directorate?

Ans: Centrally funded institutions are not eligible for grants under RUSA. However, information on such institutions should be reflected in the State Higher Education Plan.

Q 28: The Agriculture University (which has constituent colleges and also affiliated Agriculture colleges) was earlier getting funds directly from ICAR. Would it get funds through SCHE under RUSA only or from both RUSA and ICAR)?

Ans: These Universities typically are funded by ICAR and State governments. However they are also eligible for grants under RUSA if the SHEC recommends it in SHEP, duly taking into account the other sources of funding, including ICAR, UGC, CSIR, DST, DBT etc. grants.

Q 29: There are various other funding agencies like Departments of Science & Technology, Atomic Energy, Biotechnology, Forestry etc. from where some institutions get funds for specific projects. Such funds would also be routed through SCHE or would remain independent process as it was earlier?

Ans: While it is ideal to have a single routing agency for better consideration and harmonizing the Gross Education effort of a state. For the time being it is enough if the SHEP reflects the funds received/likely to be received from entities other than RUSA. SHEC should reconcile the funding streams and priorities the HEIs proposed under RUSA.

Q 30: How to calculate Present Rating & Present Score and Target Rating & Target Score?

Ans: Answered in q.13

Q 31: What is CASH?

Ans: Committee Against Sexual Harassment

Q 32: What is H Index?

Ans: H Index is defined as the number of papers with citation number higher or equal to h, as a useful index to characterize the scientific output of a researcher as well productivity of research output.

Q 33: Whether State open universities can be included in component 4, Infrastructure grants to universities?

Ans: All state public universities are eligible for grants as recommended by SHEC.

Q 34: From which financial year, the institutional annual plan and state annual plan start. It should start from 2013-14 or from 2014-15?

Ans: 2014-15 onwards.

Q 35.: For the component Infrastructure Grants to colleges, whether every college has to submit institutional Plan Development template or it can be summed up at Directorate of Higher Education.

Ans: All institutions (Colleges and Universities –Public, Public aided) should submit their institutional plans. However, MHRD would only expect an aggregate plan showing college wise abstract. The SHEC should retain detailed Institutional Plans at its level for subsequent monitoring.

Q 36.: The ceiling amount of Rs. 20 Crore for Universities and Rs. 2 Crore for Colleges is per annum or up to what time period?

Ans: This is for the duration of the twelfth Plan period (upto 2016-17).

Q 37.: The institution plan template seeks financial information up to year 2017. Does institutions require submit plan up to year 2017 or for the next plan also.

Ans: The Institutions are encouraged to prepare a long term plan (2021-22) and break it down to more manageable short term(2016-17) and annual plans for 3 years of 12th plan.

Q 38. : For the preparation of state composite plan, up to which financial year, we should make the projections?

Ans: For the current plan period (2016-17)

Q40: If a college wants to be upgraded into a Model college it is eligible for a fund of Rs 4 crore. Is the same college eligible for Rs 2.00 crores of infrastructural grants also?

Ans: No.

Q 41: Is the target number under different components mentioned will be achieved on first come basis or based on state-wise allocation.

Ans: An informed decision will be taken by the PAB considering a number of factors which include state wise allocations and inter-se priorities on competitive basis.

Q 42: What all problems can be included under special problems?

Ans: Special Problems relate to geographical areas which are low on social and human development, Integrated Action Plan Districts and conditions where there is acute poverty, backwardness, problems of accessibility etc., militancy etc.

Q 43: Are new construction allowed under any RUSA components?

Ans: Please refer to the programmatic norms of RUSA. In components, which allow for construction, norms have been specified where new construction is allowed.

Q 44: Are private colleges covered under RUSA?

Ans: No. Only Government and Government aided.

Q 45: Can cluster colleges planning to become a university have private colleges as a part of the cluster?

Ans: No. Please see programmatic norms where only government and government aided colleges are allowed. However, an affiliating university can affiliate private colleges falling in its jurisdiction.

Q46.: Are there any other institutions empaneled by MHRD for helping states with RUSA preparations?

Ans: MHRD has not empanelled any institution for the said work. States are free to engage any institution/ agency for RUSA plan preparations.

Q 47: How to address the quality, infrastructure issues for non-governmental colleges?

Ans: Private Promoters should have a plan in place for infrastructure and quality improvements. SHEP should have a regulatory plan to properly channelize the private investments in desired areas.

Q 48: What will be the role of Director, CDC who establishes contact with government, UGC and university under RUSA?

Ans: All roles and responsibilities of the new Institutional architecture have been spelt out.

Q 49: What will be the role of UGC once RUSA comes into being?

Ans: The UGC has a very important role to play in setting standards and regulating the higher education sector. The UGC will continue to support individual oriented schemes apart from supporting Central and Deemed Universities. With increasing private sector participation in the higher education space, the UGC's role needs to be strengthened to support monitoring and oversight functions. Further, the UGC will also see a considerable expansion in its portfolio of activities with a distance education, technical and private sector higher education bureaus in the process of being established. With accreditation of institutions now mandatory, the UGC will have to put in place mechanisms to deal with an enormous expansion in its regulatory activities, an important mandate which defined its creation. This

scheme is an effort to synergize pool in and leverage the plan funds flowing in higher education from Centre, States and other agencies like UGC. Therefore all the plan funds are proposed to be routed through RUSA. 12 B grants of the UGC should be dovetailed in the SHEP by SHECs.

Q 50: How much preparatory fund will be allocated to the state?

Ans: States have been categorized along three categories based on Fund Equalization Formula. Accordingly, large States are entitled to 10 crores, Medium States to 8 crores and Small states to 6 crores (central share @ 65% or 90% whichever may be the case).

Q 51: What is the scope of RUSA to include non-governmental colleges in state like Orissa which accounts for majority GER?

Ans: RUSA does not support Non-Government institutions which are not aided by the Government.

Q 52: How will institutions sustain the reforms after 13th Five year plan when flow of funds under RUSA may be ceased or curtailed?

Ans: States are expected to takeover and carry over the initiatives launched under RUSA.

Q 53: How can universities acquire lands for campuses?

Ans: This matter has to be addressed between the University and the State Government.

Q 54: What are the provisions for protection of rights of minority institutions under Cluster University?

Ans: This is an issue to be decided by the State Government keeping in mind constitutional obligations. Mutually agreeable terms and conditions may be formalized through an MoU.

Q 55: What is the prescribed radius of from which colleges will affiliate to the university?

Ans: No such radius has been prescribed. It is advisable for Universities to undertake affiliation reforms and restrict the size of Universities to 100 colleges. States are free to delineate territorial jurisdiction of affiliating universities.

Q 56: Is it mandatory for all universities to have college affiliations?

Ans: No. States can create unitary universities also.

Q 57: What will be the role of the lead college in a cluster university and who will have administrative control?

Ans: This has to be decided by the State Council for Higher Education, which will oversee the transition to a cluster university set up once such a scheme is approved. The scheme of transition should however, capture the entire process in details including roles and obligations.

Q 58: Which type of colleges should comprise the cluster university?

Ans: These have been detailed in the programmatic norms under the said component. This is also available under the new guidelines.

Q 59: What are the provisions for up-gradation of autonomous colleges to university?

Ans: Please refer to component no. 1 in the guidelines document uploaded in the Ministry's website.

Q 60: If the cluster universities include autonomous colleges lead by Government College, what will be the implications in terms of the fees structure?

Ans: The Institution will be bound by its own rules and rules in so far as they are not in contravention to the rules of statutory bodies. States are free to prescribe fee norms for both public and private institutions.

Q 61: What will be the commitment of the government with respect to achieving the objectives of access and equity after completion of the two plan periods?

Ans: Governments will be guided by the National Policy in vogue to achieve broad objectives of access, equity and excellence. Central government is always committed to promoting these objectives.

Q 62: If the commitment to acquire 25 acres land for campuses is difficult, can the requirement be brought down?

Ans: The programmatic norms clearly specify the requirement on land in case of all types of institutions.

Q 63: Does the budget proposed need to be spread among the next three years i.e., 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 ?

Ans: The institutions and the state have to make the budget for the remaining three years of the XIIth plan, i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. For the year 2013-14 only model degree college's funds and preparatory funds are being disbursed to States, hence budget requirements for 2013-14 as far as state share is concerned must be reflected in budget for 2013-14.

Q 64: Earlier Colleges/Universities used to get grants from UGC only if they were registered under Section 2F and 12B of UGC Act. Under RUSA for availing grants this condition is not necessary. Should the Universities/Colleges created recently (in last 1-5 years) still go for registration under Section 2F and 12B of UGC Act? OR it is not necessary now?

Ans: In case colleges are desirous of getting grants under individual specific schemes from UGC, then they may have to comply with UGC's requirements of 12 B and 2F. For receiving development grants under RUSA, they need not be registered under 2F and 12 B. However, many schemes of UGC (individual oriented) may still require 12B status. Hence is advisable to apply for 2f and 12B.

Q 65: Since Private Colleges/ Universities (Non-aided) are not being covered under RUSA, are they still eligible to get funds from UGC (if they are registered under 2f and 12b)?

Ans: In case such schemes exist, they can apply for funds from UGC.

Q 65: Is there any maximum limit of budget for existing College and University eligible under RUSA?

Ans: States will be informed about the resource envelope and on the basis of which states can prepare perspective plan. Guidelines issued for RUSA clearly indicate the budget ceilings for each component.

Q 65: How to calculate population aged 18 to 23 years? Can you suggest a way to calculate this population district wise? In Census 11 data available to us, we have not been able to find the fraction of this population (18-23 Years). This information is necessary for calculating District wise GER.

Ans: NSSO data has State wise data available which can help in calculating the GER. The States can extract the relevant data from this or data sources available at the State level.

Q 66: Whether State open universities can be included in component 4, Infrastructure grants to universities.

Ans: Infrastructure grants will be provided to all eligible State Universities.

Q 67: From which financial year, the institutional annual plan and state annual plan start. It should start from 2013-14 or from 2014-15?

Ans: The starting financial year will be 2013-14

Q.68: For the component Infrastructure Grants to colleges, whether every college has to submit institutional Plan Development template or it can be summed up at Directorate of Higher Education.

Ans: Each Institution will have to prepare a Development Plan. These plans will be dovetailed and the State Council for Higher Education should create a comprehensive plan and indicate component wise allocations required. So, the individual requirements of colleges should be vetted by the State Council and they should decide on the requirements for the entire State.

Q 69: If a college wants to be upgraded into a Model college it is eligible for a fund of Rs 4 crore. Is the same college eligible for Rs 2.00 crores of infrastructural grants also?

Ans: No

Q 70: If relevant information is available against certain deliverables then does it affect the evaluation of the institute in the future?

Ans: The information made available against the deliverables will be used to track performance of the State and consequently future grants will be dependent on achievements/commitments.

Q 72: Does the Institutional Development Plan include the plans for Off-site campuses?

Ans: SHEC should take an informed decision about it while finalizing SHEP.

Q73: Can university be created from autonomous colleges which have been given retrospective autonomy?

Ans: There is no provision of retrospective effect in UGC's scheme of autonomous colleges.

Q 76: Clarification regarding the decision taken for extension of Faculty recruitment support towards the colleges.

Ans: Faculty recruitment support is currently only for State Universities and colleges.

Q 77: Clarification regarding opening of general new colleges to meet out and equity under RUSA.

Ans: No new general colleges can be opened under the equity component under RUSA, unless special circumstances so warrant and PAB is convinced about the need for such proposals.

Q 78: What is the final decision taken regarding submission date of State plan to MHRD?

Ans: Final date for submission of State plan to MHRD is 31st January, 2014.

Q 79: What is the likely resource which will be released to the States under RUSA for the year 2013-14?

Ans: The resources to be released to states are only for preparatory activities and ongoing schemes from 11th Plan (model degree colleges). All new components will be supported from 2014.-15