

CONCEPT NOTE FOR NEXT PHASE OF RUSA

Introduction:

RUSA Scheme has been implementing in our State from the year 2014 in 2 phases. During RUSA Phase I total Rs. 456. 93 crore was approved under 9 numbers of components.

RUSA in Assam and its achievements till date:

To assess the achievement of RUSA Phase I Scheme in our State Assam, an outcome study report was prepared containing total 150 pages for which studies has been made at different RUSA beneficiary institutions and on the basis of these data collected during the studies the report was prepared. This report has focused on the activities and achievements during RUSA 1.0. The important findings of the report are:

- 5 numbers of Model Degree Colleges are now functional and another 3 Model Degree College will be started from this academic session.
- Under infrastructure grants to Universities component 2 numbers of Girls' Hostels, 27 numbers of toilets and 11 numbers of laboratories has been newly constructed, 21 numbers of academic blocks, 4 administrative blocks, 20 hostels, 40 toilets, 2 libraries, 60 smart classrooms, 2 auditorium, 2 canteen, 20 laboratories, 2 computer centres and 2 playgrounds have been renovated 330 numbers of computers, 4724 lab equipment, 301200 numbers of E-Journals have been purchased at 2 numbers of Universities.
- Under upgradation of existing degree colleges to MDC Component 20 laboratories, 9 computer centers were newly created, 5 academic buildings, 10 campuses, 21 technologically enabled classrooms, 59 toilets, 5 libraries, 5 auditoriums, 5 canteens have been renovated and 28 numbers of sports equipment, 325 numbers of computers and 50228 numbers of E- resources have been purchased in 5 numbers of colleges.
- Under infrastructure grants to colleges component : 266 numbers of classrooms, 244 numbers of toilets blocks, 16 computer centres, 6 hostels, 32 common rooms, 8 canteens, 51 laboratories have been newly constructed, 47 numbers of academic blocks, 64 numbers of administrative blocks have been renovated and 2780 numbers of sports equipment, 1681 numbers of computers, 141 digital equipment, 154 wifi connections, CCTV installed 54, 30345 numbers of laboratory equipment, 180241 numbers of books and journals have been purchased at 87 numbers of colleges.
- Under equity initiatives component: Free bus services for girls and differently abled students have been provided to 2 colleges, disable friendly facilities to 4 colleges, finishing schools facilities to 11 numbers of colleges, TOT on finishing schools to 3 colleges and language laboratories at 12 numbers of colleges have been established.

During RUSA phase II under 6 numbers of components, Rs. 382 crore was approved for the State –Assam. At the initial stage of RUSA 2.0, due to instable situation in the State and pandemic situations arising because of Covid-19 the tender processes at the institution level was slowed down. During that period, civil construction works could not be initiated by the institutions. But with the normalization of these pandemic and disturbance situation the State is now able to speed up RUSA works and during the last 2 – 3 months there is a tremendous increase in the utilization of RUSA fund by the beneficiary institutions. **But due to pandemic situations from April 2020 fund has not been released to the State.**

During lock down situations various software have been developed in -house by RUSA Assam official and with the help of these software all official activities of RUSA Assam has been made online. These online software were designed to cover Administrative branch, finance and accounts branch, planning monitoring and implementation branch of RUSA Assam.

RUSA Assam has developed an online monitoring system to monitor all projects funded under RUSA for different beneficiary institutions. This system is found to be very much helpful for regular monitoring of RUSA projects. This helps to track/ maintain all fund related/ proposal related data systematically and transparently in one common platform.

Besides its normal RUSA activities, during 2019-20 RUSA Assam could initiate various other activities for quality improvement of Higher Education sector of the State. Some of these important best practices of RUSA Assam are : Development of various customized software, Preparation of Higher Education Information system to keep institutional data, faculty data and student data of the State, publication of E- Magazine of RUSA where various topics of Higher Education of

the State are covered, Preparation of outcome study report, preparation of Analytical report for fixation of future strategy of Higher Education of the State, development of Assamese font in collaboration with Gauhati University, GIS mapping of all Higher Education Institutions of the State in collaboration with ASTEC. RUSA Assam had also organized various awareness programmes for improvement of NAAC Accreditation status of Higher Education Institutions of the State. Now the RUSA Assam office is well equipped with staff from different academic field to implement the various activities to be adopted under National Education Policy 2020.

In the light of above note, it may be mentioned that, RUSA 1.0 and 2.0 could make tremendous impact for improvement of infrastructural facilities of different higher education institutions of the State. Assam with peculiar geographic situation and instable insurgency situation, policies like RUSA is very much useful for improvement of quality and infrastructural facilities of Higher Education institutions of the State. Therefore RUSA 3.0 is highly recommended for our State- Assam.

For new phase of RUSA scheme in the light of NEP 2020, the following modifications in the earlier components, guidelines, process/ procedures etc. are proposed:

Proposed Modifications in the process:

1. **Common platform to get knowledge about the components to be proposed during different PABs**
2. **Online common system for UC submission/ photograph submission/ fund tracking**
3. **Non duplication of infrastructure fund.**
4. **Development of online monitoring system like RUSA Assam.**
5. **Fund should be released in 2 instalments**
6. **Eligibility to get 2nd instalment:** Submission of 75% UC were the main criteria to receive subsequent RUSA instalment during RUSA 1.0 and 2.0. This should be relaxed to 50% to speed up the utilization process.
7. **Separate fund for civil and non-civil works**
8. **Freedom of the States to apply for different components.**

Proposed Modifications under the components:

A. Components: Infrastructure grants to Colleges, infrastructure grants to universities and upgradation of existing degree colleges to MDC:

- Proper segregation of projects to be included under New Construction and Renovation.
- Different sub components for general classrooms and for digital classrooms, digitalization of libraries should be there in under new construction.
- Fund for library storage facilities should be there separately under library renovation sub head.
- There should be separate subheads of Sports equipment under infra grants to colleges and upgradation of existing degree colleges to MDC. a) Sports equipment and b) sports asset creation i.e. play courts, gym, playground etc.
- There should be fund provision for internet networking, wifi connections under a separate sub head.
- There should be provision for purchase of equipment for technologically enabled classrooms/ smart classrooms etc.
- Special projects for improvement in student facilities like student sharing etc
- Special fund for advanced science laboratories.

B. Component: Faculty Improvement:

- Under this component, Faculty improvement programmes should be main criteria and there should not be any provision for infrastructural facilities in exception of IT facilities, smart classroom facilities etc.
- Fund for State Universities for establishment of Faculty training Centres should be encouraged to improve the quality of teaching in Higher Education.

Proposed components:

1. CREATION OF UNIVERSITIES BY UPGRADATION OF EXISTING AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE/ GOVT. AND PROVINCIALISED COLLEGES
2. BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET CREATION FOR UNIVERSITIES
3. QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE IN STATE UNIVERSITIES
4. NEW MODEL DEGREE COLLEGES
5. ENHANCING QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE IN AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES
6. BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET CREATION FOR COLLEGES
7. EQUITY INITIATIVES
8. FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
9. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN MODEL DEGREE COLLEGES
10. INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADATION TO SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS
11. UPGRADATION /DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT FACILITIES
12. ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES FOR TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES
13. INTRODUCTION OF VOCATIONAL COURSES/SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSES
14. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVANCED SCIENCE LABORATORIES
15. DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN ACADEMIC LEARNING
16. UPGRADATION OF EXISTING ENGINEERING COLLEGES AND STATE UNIVERSITIES INTO NATIONAL STANDARD INSTITUTION
17. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES
18. RESEARCH INNOVATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Proposed modifications:

1. Modifications in the minimum pre requisite to get grants under component 1, 4 and 8 as set under RUSA 2.0.
2. Infrastructural support for newly created universities and newly up gradated universities from colleges.
3. Relaxation in the minimum NAAC score for North Eastern States under different components.
4. Increase in the amount to be released under different components.