

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National body to monitor quality of education

*151. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

PROF. ALKABALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended the creation of a national body to monitor the quality of education in both Government and private schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government on the recommendations of NKC;

(d) whether the quality of education in Government and private schools throughout the country is deteriorating day by day; and

(e) if so, by when a national body would be created to monitor the quality of education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) National Knowledge Commission in a letter submitted to the Prime Minister in February, 2008 has suggested creation of a national evaluation body to monitor the quality of both Government and private schools, using a results-based monitoring framework based on a list of monitorable criteria.

(c) and (e) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments. There is no hard evidence with this Ministry to suggest a declining standard of education at school level. Pass percentage of schools under Central Government, i.e., Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalayas and also of independent private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), both at Class X and Class XII standard, have remained stable over the last five years (2003 to 2007) and have in fact increased slightly. Government has not taken any decision to create a national body to monitor the quality of education, as it is for respective States and Educational Boards to look into aspects of quality of school education.

Mahila Samakhya Programme

*152. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government of United Kingdom has extended a helping hand to Mahila Samakhya Programme, which aims; for empowerment of women in rural areas for seven years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that nearly one million pounds would be given to our country during the next three years, under the above programme;

(d) if so, the details of assistance extended to the rural women in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) to what extent this would help in achieving the goal of sending every girl to school by 2011?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Mahila Samakhya is an on-going Central Sector Programme. The Mahila Samakhya Programme has a range of interventions that draw women and girls into the educational process and it has also forged linkages with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is Government of India's flagship scheme for universalisation of elementary education. Rs. 5 crores has been released for the Mahila Samakhya Programme in Andhra Pradesh in 2007-08. The Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom (UK) has agreed to provide assistance for an amount of 35 million pound sterling to the Mahila Samakhya Programme for a seven-year period starting 2007-08.

Utilization of funds for women's schemes in Uttar Pradesh

*153. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that huge funds for women's schemes remain unutilized in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned to the State for various women's schemes and the status thereof;

(c) whether Government is also aware that funds given for various projects and programmes under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act in the State also remain unutilized; and

(d) if so, what is the mechanism to monitor proper utilization of the funds allocated for particular projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Under Swayamsiddha out of total grant admissible amounting to Rs. 1517.80 lakhs for the entire project period an amount of Rs. 993.12 lakhs have been released to Uttar Pradesh Government. The State Government has utilized an amount of Rs. 617.55 lakhs and unspent balance reported is Rs. 375.57 lakhs as per UC furnished.

(c) No funds have been provided to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Funds provided under Swayamsiddha are monitored through the Annual Action Plan, Quarterly Progress Reports received from the States and Quarterly Review meetings.