

Establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas at Dibrugarh and Sibsagar

560. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish new Kendriya Vidyalayas at Dibrugarh and Sibsagar in Assam; and

(b) if so, by when Kendriya Vidyalayas are likely to be opened there?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Proposals have been received from the opening of one Kendriya Vidyalaya each at Dibrugarh and Sibsagar. Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas depends on several factors such as availability of facilities as per extant norms, fulfilment of terms and conditions prescribed in that behalf, allocation of budget as well as required approval at various levels. No new Kendriya Vidyalaya has been opened during 1998-99 for want of budgetary allocations and required approval.

Adult Literacy Scheme

561. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Adult Literacy scheme is being run satisfactorily; and

(b) if not, what changes are being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several steps have been taken to revamp and reorient the adult literacy programmes which include the enhanced focus on female literacy; greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institution and Non-Governmental Organisations; strengthening of State Resource Centres; opening of Shramik Vidyapeeths in rural areas; decentralisation of financial and

administrative power to State Literacy Mission Authorities; ensuring better follow-up and consolidation through extending the programme of post literacy and continuing education, etc.

Consequent to the Education Minister's Conference held on 22-23 October, 1998 a National Committee chaired by the Minister of Human Resource Development has been constituted to formalise strategies for achieving Universalisation of Elementary Education in a Mission made within a given time frame and with people's participation. The 'terms and reference' to the national committee also includes strategies for strengthening adult education and literacy programmes.

Poor Quality of Education in Government Schools

562. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the major reasons for the rush in public schools is the poor quality of education in Government schools; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to improve the quality?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) There is no standardised touchstone to merit a generalised statement about the standards of education in Government schools. Standards vary from time to time in all institutions. However, the Government is fully conscious of the need to upgrade the quality and content of education in the Government schools and has been taking up specific programmes in this respect in pursuance of National Policy of Education (NPE), 1986. A number of measures have also been taken to improve the content and process of education at all stages. For improvement of primary education, Operation