

has represented India in the 4th World Cup held at Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1978. However, the Government is not aware of the present economic condition/avocation of Sri Bhengra.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme of National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, Government provides pension upto Rs. 2500/- p.m. and lump sum financial assistance upto Rs. 40,000/- for medical treatment to the outstanding sports persons living in indigent condition. Financial assistance upto Rs. 40,000/- is also given to the families of outstanding sportspersons in indigent circumstances.

Bill for Free and Compulsory Education

570. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

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

(a) whether education being the back bone of the society and the country the Bill recommending education free and compulsory for children between 6 to 14 year, covering approximately 63 million children of the opportunity to get free education, will be tabled in this session;

(b) what are the major reasons for delay; and

(c) which are the States where primary education is very poor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Constitution (Eighty-Third Amendment) Bill, 1997 to make right to free and compulsory education for children in the age group of 6 to 14 years a Fundamental Right has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on July 28, 1997.

(c) According to available information the gross enrolment ratios are lower and drop out rates are higher than the national average at primary level in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar.

J&K, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Cut in UGC Funds

571. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times of 3rd February, 1999 captioned "U.G.C. faces crisis as Government cuts funds" by giving only 80 per cent of the required funding to all the autonomous institutions;

(b) whether University Grants Commission is pleading for 100% funding till the end of this financial year otherwise all the educational institutions under it would not be able to pay salaries to their staff, including U.G.C. employees; and

(c) if so, from which date Government have decided to restore cut and what remedial action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per norms laid down by the Government 1997 for meeting additional requirements on account of revision of pay scales of employees of quasi-government organisations, etc. set up and funded by the Government, 80% of the additional expenditure is to be met by the Central Government and the remaining by the autonomous organisation concerned through additional generation of revenue as well as savings.

(b) and (c) The University Grants Commission have brought to the notice of the Government that the universities and colleges are finding it difficult to generate additional resources to the extent of 20% by way of resource mobilisation and savings. However, it is not possible for the Government to provide complete exemption from the cut