

200th Death Anniversary of Tippu Sultan

358. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have planned to observe the 200th death anniversary of Tippu Sultan, who revolted against the imperial rule;

(b) if not, whether Government will consider setting up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Human Resource Development Minister to observe the 200th death anniversary of Tippu Sultan in 1999; and

(c) if Government is not considering the proposal, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Not yet Sir.

(b) and (c) The observance of anniversary is normally decided a year in advance. The Government has, therefore, yet not considered the issue of observance of 200th death anniversary of Tippu Sultan.

Universalisation of Elementary Education

359. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 9th Plan envisages universalisation of access to elementary education.

(b) if so, the estimates of the additional requirements of funds teachers and school buildings needed to achieve this goal; and

(c) the measures begin considered to meet these additional requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Report of the working Group on Elementary

Education, Non-Formal Education, Early Childhood Care and Education and Teacher Education for the Ninth Five Year Plan envisages, *inter alia* universal access to elementary education. The Working Group has estimated financial outlay of Rs. 71,10,757 crore for elementary education during the 9th Five Year Plan period including an amount of Rs. 40,000 crore to meet financial requirements of States/UTs to make right to free and compulsory education a fundamental right. A Group of Experts in educational finance and fiscal management has been set-up to examine financial requirements of State/UTs and suggest measures to mobilise additional resources to make elementary education a fundamental right.

Blocks under ICDS in Punjab

360. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks presently covered under the Integrated Child Development Scheme in the State of Punjab;

(b) whether the scheme also provides nutritious food to children in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been sanctioned 137 blocks in the State of Punjab.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under the ICDS Scheme, supplementary nutrition is provided to pre-school children upto six years of age in the state of Punjab.

(c) As per the Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) for the period ending September 30, 1997, over 2.92 lakh pre-school children are receiving supplementary nutrition in the State of Punjab.

(d) The Government monitors the implementation of ICDS Scheme on a