

all the girls below poverty line in Tribal Sub-Plan area and girls belonging to backward communities in Non-Tribal area upto Std. IV;

(iv) It has been decided to provision of free text books to all the students (boys and girls) from academic year 1996-97 in Std. I to IV in low female literacy blocks. From June 1996 onwards, free uniforms and writing materials are being provided to all children studying in first standard in local body schools in these blocks. This facility will be extended upto 4th standard by adding one class every year;

(v) Free education is provided to girls upto 12th Standard; and

(vi) Savitribal Phule Foster Parent Scheme is being implemented in the State under which the financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 30/- per month per girl student is made available to the girl students from the economically weaker sections.

Universalisation of Elementary Education in Maharashtra

372. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) in the vidarbha region of Maharashtra, particularly in Nagpur;

(b) if so, what are their findings;

(c) whether the desired goals are being achieved in the region; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to achieve the goals of UEE in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) Infor-

mation is being collected from the Government of Maharashtra and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Grants for educationally backward States

373. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have decided to provide hundred per cent grants to educationally backward States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce any new schemes during 1997-98 for the removal of illiteracy in these States so that the target or full literacy would be attained by the year 2005; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Grants are released by Central Government to all the States including educationally backward States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Schemes on the basis of the sharing pattern which varies from scheme to scheme. Programmes like DPED (District Primary Education Programme) Total Literacy Campaigns under the Adult education Programme, Non-formal Education have a focus on educationally backward states.

(b) and (c) During 1997-98 the Central Government propose to introduce the