

Increase in Fond Allocation to Universities

2960. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fund allocated to the universities during each of the last three years and so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the grants are inadequate, keeping in view the ever increasing number of students in these universities and colleges affiliated to them;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide more funds to these universities; and

(d) 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) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grants provided for Educational Schemes

2961. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme envisaged by Government to fulfil the Constitutional obligations of compulsory and free primary education;

(b) the details of grants provided for various schemes, such as Mid-day meal, Operation Blackboard and other educational schemes, State-wise and Scheme-wise; and

(c) the extent to which these schemes have proved useful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) In pursuance of Article 45 of the Directive Principles of the Constitution, 14 States and 4 Union Territories have enacted legislation for making primary education compulsory. States/UTs have exempted all children in primary schools from payment of tuition fees.

(b) State-wise and scheme-wise details of grants provided in 1995-96 under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education and District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*)

Under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, commonly known as Mid-day Meal Scheme, States are provided foodgrains through the Food corporation of India and no grants are released to them directly. This Department provided an amount of Rs. 441.21 crore to FCI for this purpose in 1995-96.

(c) These centrally sponsored schemes have augmented the efforts of State Government to achieve Universalisation of Elementary Education by improving infrastructure of primary schools, converting single teacher primary schools to dual teacher schools and providing necessary teaching learning materials under Operation Blackboard; opportunities for non-formal education to approximately 70 lakh children in 6—14 age group and nutritional supplement to 5.57 crore primary school children in 4426 Blocks. DPEP seeks to revitalise the primary education system in selected districts through integrated planning and decentralised implementation.