

[23 March, 2001]

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any other examination centre set up in the CBSE affiliated schools located all over the country.

3. The schools have been authorised to appoint practical examiners locally to avoid any inconvenience to the students.

4. The CBSE has also decided to conduct re-examination in theory between 16th April, 2001 to 27th April, 2001 for such candidates who do not find it feasible to appear in the CBSE's main examinations which have commenced from 7th March, 2001.

#### **Drop-out rate of tribal students**

3105. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drop-out rate of tribal students in different States has been increasing for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise and the action being taken to check this trends?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The drop-out rates for tribal students have generally been declining over the last three years.

Several measures have been taken to reduce drop-out rates among Scheduled Tribes particularly at elementary stage. These include micro-planning, Community mobilization, improvement of school infrastructure through Operation Blackboard Scheme, District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meals), various incentive schemes such as scholarships, free-ships, free textbooks, uniforms, construction of hostels and residential schools for Scheduled Tribes students etc. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan that has recently been launched to achieve universalisation of elementary education in a holistic and convergent manner has a special focus on disadvantaged groups including Scheduled Tribes.