

(2) The parent undergoing sterilisation should be below 40 years of age.

(3) The parents should have only one or two female children and no son;

(4) The beneficiary girl child should not be more than 3 years;

(5) The annual family income should not be more than Rs. 12,000/-

2. The benefits given under the scheme are:

(i) The initial deposit shall be Rs. 5,000/-;

(ii) The final benefit will be Rs. 20,000/-;

(iii) At first birthday or next birthday after enrolment, a gold ring of 2 gms. weight worth about Rs. 800/- will be given;

(iv) The deposit amount will be entered into a passbook given on enrolment. A token system to establish identity for claiming the stream of benefits will be introduced.

Quality of education in Schools

1779. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that literacy rate in the country is among the lowest in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government investment in primary and secondary education in particular, has been the lowest even among several developing nations of Asia;

(c) the comparative year-wise details of allocation and outlay made in primary and secondary education since 1989-90;

(d) whether Government are aware that number of schools and colleges which have been proliferating, particularly in the cities are basically commercial ventures considered to be teaching shops engaged in imparting low quality education;

(e) whether Government have any mechanism to monitor the quality of school education provided by the schools in the States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, whether it is contemplated to introduce such a mechanism with a view to make available quality education in school to the children and its wider coverage of the country's young population?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) India's literacy rate is low compared to many countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The details are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 173 Annexure 73]

(d) to (g) All over the country recognised schools are affiliated either to a State Government/Board, or to the Central Board of Secondary Education or to the Indian Council of School Education. Colleges are affiliated to universities/ deemed universities. The criteria for recognition lay down specifications in respect of facilities, teacher qualifications and fees. Fulfilment of quality is considered by the affiliating bodies. Further, all technical institutions in the country require to conform to norms laid down by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a statutory body created by the Parliament. In order to foster quality in technical and higher education, recently, the AICTE has set up a National Accreditation Council for Technical Education and the UGC has set up a similar body for higher education.