

there has been no manipulation in promotion and recruitment in non-teaching and teaching categories in Hindu College.

(d) As per the information received from Hindu College/Delhi University, there have been 13 cases of promotions/recruitment of teaching/non-teaching staff in the SCST categories in the last five years.

Educational empowerment of SCsSTs

1493. SHRI BIRABHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether literacy rate among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is far below the national rate;

(b) if so, the action being taken to improve the literacy rate among these communities, the total amount of funds earmarked for the purpose in the Eight, (1992—1997) and Ninth Five Year Plans (1997—2002), as compared to the total Plan Outlays of the Ministry of HRD, both in actual and percentage figures; and

(c) the total funds earmarked for the Education Sector in both the Five Year Plans and out of that the amount of funds exclusively earmarked for educational empowerment of SCsSTs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The NSSO Survey (53rd Round) shows that the general literacy rate for India has moved up to 62%. However this survey does not give the disaggregated figures for SCsSTs. The literacy rate of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in the country, as per 1991 Census was 37.41% and 29.60% respectively, as compared to the general literacy rate of 52.21%.

(b) and (c) In the literacy campaigns the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are specially targeted. These campaigns reach out to areas of the country which are most backward, illiterate and poverty stricken. Areas of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe concentration are covered on a priority basis and these groups are invariably accessed to a greater degree.

The Specific steps being taken by the Government to improve literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes include;

Funding of Literacy projects by Central and State Governments in the ratio of 4:1 for Tribal districts as against 2:1 for other areas; opening of primary schools on priority basis; development of instructional material in tribal languages at the initial stages; establishment of hostels, residential schools, provision of scholarships and freeships; launching of District Primary Education Programme in backward districts with low female literacy rates.

The three pronged strategy for increasing literacy in the country consists of;

- (i) Universalisation of Elementary Education;
- (ii) Non-Formal Education for School Drop-Outs in the age group of 9-14 years and;
- (iii) Literacy Campaigns & Continuing Education Programme of the National Literacy Mission for adult learners.

Three statements mentioning the Outlay of 8th and 9th five year plans for Literacy, Education and the funds released for SCST components are enclosed.

Statement-I

Amount Earmarked for Literacy in 8th & 9th Plan

	<i>(Rs. In Crores)</i>
	<i>Plan Allocation</i>
8th Plan: 1992—97	Rs. 970.47
9th Plan: 1997—2002	Rs. 630.39

Statement-II*Funds Earmarked for Education Department in 8th & 9th Plan**(Rs. In Crores)*

	<i>Plan Allocation</i>
Eighth Plan Period 1992—97	Rs. 7443.00
Ninth Plan Period 1997—2002	Rs. 24908.38

Statement-III*Funds Exclusively Earmarked for SC/ST in 8th & 9th Five Year Plans in Department of Education**(Rs. in Crores)*

	Year	Plan Allocation	Flow to SCP	Flow to TSP
Eighth Plan Period	1992-97	7443.00	857.21 (15.63)	512.10 (9.33)
Ninth Plan Period	1997—98 to 1999-2000	12840.28	1690.04 (16.09)	944.53 (9.00)

Note: Figures given in parenthesis indicates percentage of flow of funds of the divisible outlay to SCP & TSP.

Free Education to Children

†1494. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to provide free education to all the children between the age group of 6 to 14 years;

(b) whether any estimate has been made for the amount to be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.