

श्री विनय कटियार : आप जो कह रहे हैं, तो आप इतना बतला दें कि उत्तर प्रदेश से नेपाल में इसकी कितनी smuggling हो रही है? ...(व्यवधान)... आप अनुमानित तो बता सकते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : कटियार जी, आप एक सवाल पूछ चुके हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, फर्टिलाइजर की जरूरत देश में हर साल होनी है, हर फसल के लिए होनी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे फर्टिलाइजर के जो कारखाने बंद पड़े हैं, उनको रिवाइव करने के लिए, देश की जरूरत को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, Namrup is in operation. One unit of Namrup is closed down and the revival plan is still under consideration. But the revamping of Namrup project is in the pipeline. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the same reply was given by the then Minister also one-and-half years back.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : But the Government is not doing anything for the revival of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, Mr. Baishya.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, we are getting the same answer for the last two years. But the Central Government is not doing anything to expand the Namrup fertilizer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. It is all right. You have made your point. ...(Interruptions)... No; no; you have not been called. ...(Interruptions)... Please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : What are they doing for the expansion programme? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No; no; Mr. Baishya, please. ...(Interruptions)... Resume your place. ...(Interruptions)... Please resume your place. Q. No. 327

ICT in schools scheme

***327. SHRI N.K. SINGH :**

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

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

(a) whether Government plans to ensure Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at schools;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent ICT in Schools scheme formulated by Government has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools" is being implemented since December 2004 to promote the usage of ICT in Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools for enriching the teaching learning process and to enable the students to acquire skills needed for the digital world. Financial assistance is provided for ICT infrastructure, including internet connectivity, capacity building of teachers and development of appropriate e-content for ICT - aided teaching and learning. The schools are selected based on the Computer Education Plans received from the States/UTs. An outlay of Rs 6000 crores has been provided in the XI Five Year Plan for the scheme.

(c) Sanction has been accorded for coverage of about 58000 Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools since the inception of the scheme.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, my first supplementary to the hon. Minister is, notwithstanding his fable expertise in the legalese of the question, since this is the fifth year in which the Scheme is being implemented covering 58,000 schools and the on-going programme of the 11th Plan, according to the answer given in his Question of 6000 crores, independent studies have suggested that in the implementation of this Programme, the digital divide in this country has, in fact, grown. What steps, if any, is the Minister contemplating that in the on-going programme for covering the country, parts of the country which are left behind and backward do not become victims of a growing digital divide?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, much of this depends on whether the economy will grow at nine per cent, giving a forthright answer to my learned friend. Much of this will depend on whether the economy grows at nine per cent, and, for that, the answer is with the hon. Member because he knows it as he is an expert in economics. But, Sir, at the moment, we have an allocation of Rs. 6000 crores and within that allocation, we will certainly spread it in the best manner that we can. Beyond that, we cannot go, and, quite frankly, if the digital divide has increased, without any doubt, we are trying to cover the schools.

What we are trying to do now is to have some smart schools where we intensify ICT schooling. But, Sir, the problem in rural areas and some of the other areas is, we don't even have electricity. So, some of those infrastructural problems are there. But if we are able to set up a conduit for actual implementation of the scheme by having a backbone, which will hopefully be done in the next three years, then, perhaps, we can implement it by larger allocations, depending on how fast the economy grows.

SHRI N. K. SINGH: Thank you, Sir. My second supplementary arises out of the response of the Minister to the first supplementary where he has mentioned the constraints caused by the

limitations of the allocation in the Eleventh Plan. Now, in the draft policy of the Ministry for coverage of ICT to all parts of India, there is a second-last chapter which pertains to fostering public-private partnership. My question to the Minister is, for a faster coverage of this scheme, and considering the limitations of resources for the remaining period of the Eleventh Plan and the Twelfth Five Year Plan, what steps, if any, is the Minister contemplating to harness the resources of fostering public-private partnership?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I want to just mention to the hon. Member that during the course of the Eleventh Plan, we expect to cover all Government and Government-aided schools under the scheme. For all other schools which will, obviously, not to be covered, your suggestion is welcome and we will see if we can take action on it.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, the Minister himself, in his reply, said that availability of electricity becomes a major issue in the successful implementation of the scheme. Feedback from several such schools that are implementing the scheme is that the electricity is very patchy and that availability of generators has not been sanctioned. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, knowing that this is an important milestone if we want to bridge the digital divide, would the Centre make it mandatory, in such areas where electricity is patchy, to ensure that there are generators, or look at options in renewable energy? For instance, allow the schools to have subsidised solar power generation so that electricity is a must for the scheme.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Yes; the hon. Member is quite right. In fact, already a large number of schools are being given ICT infrastructure on a BOT basis, Built-Operate basis. The private sector is installing some of these structures and generators are also supplied under the scheme. We have, in fact, told them that if they want to use solar panels, we would help them even there and we are also willing to supply generators.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Electricity bills are not paid; that is the problem. Electricity is there but the bills are not paid.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That I won't know, because unless you bring something to my notice, I cannot answer that question. We have a lot of areas where electricity bills are not paid, Sir, but we can't. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री मोहम्मद शफी: चेयरपैन साहब, मैं ऑनरेबल ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्टर से पूछना चाहूंगा कि इन्होंने 2004 में सेकेंडरी स्कूलों और हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूलों के लिए ICT Scheme शुरू की है। सवाल में पूछा गया था कि आप इसकी डिटेल्स बताएं, उन्होंने डिटेल्स बताने के बजाय सिर्फ यह बताया है कि हमने इस स्कीम के लिए 58,000 स्कूल सैक्शन किए हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर यह जानकारी सदन की टेबल पर रखें कि इस वक्त किस स्टेट में कितने स्कूल ICT स्कीम को इम्प्लीमेंट कर रहे हैं।

جناب محمد شفیع: چیئرمین صاحب، میں انریبل ہیومن ریسورس ڈیولپمنٹ منسٹر

[Transliteration in Urdu Script.]

سے پوچھنا چاہوں گا کہ انہوں نے 2004 سے سیکنڈری اسکولوں اور ہائر سیکنڈری اسکولوں کے لئے انی سی ٹی اسکیم شروع کی ہے۔ سوال میں پوچھا گیا تھا کہ آپ اس کی ڈٹیل بتائیں، انہوں نے ڈٹیل بتانے کے بجائے صرف یہ بتایا ہے کہ ہم نے اس اسکیم کے لئے 58,000 اسکول سینکشن کئے ہیں۔ میں چاہوں گا کہ انریبل منسٹر یہ جانکاری سڈن کی ڈٹیل پر رکھیں کہ اس وقت کس اسٹیٹ میں کتنے اسکول انی سی ٹی اسکیم کو امپلیمینٹ کر رہے ہیں۔

شری کپیل سیبھل : سماپتی جی، یہ لیسٹ میں ماننیی सदस्य को दे सकता हूँ, इस स्कीम के अंतर्गत 31 केन्द्रीय विद्यालय हैं, वे कहाँ-कहाँ हैं, यह इस लिस्ट में दिया हुआ है, इसी तरह 33 नवोदय विद्यालय हैं, वह लिस्ट भी मेरे पास है, यदि माननीय सदस्य चाहेंगे, तो मैं उनको यह लिस्ट मिजवा दूंगा। इसके बाद जो हर स्टेट की physical achievement है, वे आंकड़े भी मेरे पास हैं, यदि आप चाहें, तो मैं आपको वे आंकड़े भी मिजवा दूंगा। हर स्टेट के details of financial allocation के आंकड़े भी मेरे पास हैं।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : यदि आप ये आंकड़े टेबल पर रखें, तो सभी मेंबर्स जान जाएंगे कि किस-किस स्टेट में यह स्कीम किस हद तक इम्प्लीमेंट हो रही है।

جناب محمد شفیع : اگر آپ یہ آنکڑے ڈٹیل پر رکھیں، تو سبھی ممبرس جان جائیں گے کہ کس کس اسٹیٹ میں یہ اسکیم کس حد تک امپلیمینٹ ہو رہی ہے۔

श्री कपिल सिबल : जो माननीय सदस्य मुझसे ये आंकड़े मांगेंगे, मैं उनको मिजवा दूंगा।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास : समापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि जो सरकारी aided schools हैं या सरकारी schools हैं, उनको यह equipment दिया जाएगा। जो सरकार के द्वारा aided schools हैं, वे वैसे ही सभी साधनों से संपन्न हैं। जो निजी स्कूल हैं, मैं ऐसे गरीब विद्यालय को जानता हूँ। हमने MPLAD में प्राइवेट गरीब विद्यालयों के लिए ICT equipment recommend किया, तो आपकी नीति के कारण उन्होंने कहा कि यह नहीं मिल सकता है। आप कृपया करके इस पर विचार कीजिए। अगर हम नीचे के लेवल तक ICT ले जाना चाह रहे हैं, तो उदारता से नीति में परिवर्तन कर लीजिए। मुझे इतना ही आपसे कहना है। आप इसके बारे में कुछ कहना चाहते हैं?

श्री कपिल सिबल : महोदय, वर्तमान में जो यह हमारी policy है, यह Government schools और Government-aided schools तक सीमित है। हमारी यह policy बाकी schools तक नहीं पहुंच सकती है। अभी सरकार की कोई ऐसी policy नहीं है। जब सरकार के पास ज्यादा पैसा होगा, तब इसके बारे में सोच पाएंगी। इस समय नहीं सोच सकती है।

SHRI P. RAJEEV: Sir, a notable part of the fund allocated for ICT has been spent for purchasing proprietary software and we are compelled to spend more for additional updating. In Kerala, in high-tech schools, this international reputed scheme is based on free software which

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

reduces the cost and helps the students for further development. Free stands for Freedom to Copy, Share and Development of Software. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has any plans to incorporate a pre-condition for the usage of free software to reduce the cost and help the students to develop their skills in software.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not possible for us to start preparing the software on our own. Software has to be outsourced and ultimately through ICT we must have quality software. If we were to outsource quality software, then, of course, payment will have to be made. The free software must match with the quality that should be imparted in these schools, and it is not a significant cost at all. It is for the Governments to use the software as they deem fit. Now, if the State Government have the free software and they want to use it, we don't come in the way.

Navodaya scheme for rural students

*328.DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

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

(a) whether Central Government has recently urged the State Governments to endorse the 'Navodaya Scheme' at the earliest to enable rural students to have access to quality higher education;

(b) if so, the response of State Governments in this regard,

(c) whether the education imparting system in the 'Navodaya Scheme' has been modernised so that the rural students can compete with the urban students; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance provided to State Governments under 'Navodaya Scheme' during the last two years and the results achieved under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) All the States/UTs except Tamil Nadu, have accepted the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme.

(c) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages establishment of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the country for providing good quality modern education to talented children predominantly from rural areas.

(d) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme is a central sector scheme, and assistance is not provided to the States. At present, there are 565 functional JNVs in the country with 2.07 lakh students as on 30.09.2009.