

(b) The principal reasons for the delay in implementing this programme are :

- (i) lack of adequate resources ;
- (2) the poverty of the average parent, which prevents him from sending his child to school at the age of six and maintaining him there till the age of 14 years ;
- (3) certain physical, social and cultural factors, such as scattered population, prejudices against the education of girls, which still prevail in certain areas, and backwardness of some sections of the community, such as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; and
- (4) rapid increase in the population.]

PRIMARY EDUCATION

•365. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) the various steps taken by the Central Government for the expansion and improvement of primary education in the country ;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose during 1969-70 and during the Fourth Plan period separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Primary education is a responsibility of State Governments. However, in the first three Five-Year Plans, programmes for the expansion and improvement of primary education were assisted by the Centre in two ways :

(i) *Centrally-Aided Schemes*.—Schemes included in the Plans of the State Governments—known as Centrally-aided Schemes—were eligible for Central assistance at certain prescribed proportion of the total expenditure incurred on them, subject to the limit of total assistance prescribed for the State Plan ; and

(ii) *Centrally-Sponsored Schemes*.—Certain selected schemes for the expansion and improvement of primary education were given assistance under the Cen-

trally-sponsored programmes, outside the State Plans.

The following are some of the important schemes for which Central assistance was given in the past :

- (1) Appointment of additional teachers;
- (2) Improvement in the remuneration of primary teachers;
- (3) Establishment of State Institutes of Education;
- (4) Establishment of State Institutes of Science Education;
- (5) Expansion and improvement of Teacher Training Programmes;
- (6) Assistance for Mid-day Meals scheme ; and
- (7) Expansion of the Education of Girls.

(b) All Central assistance to State Five-Year Plans is now given according to a formula adopted by the National Development Council. There are no Centrally-aided or Centrally-sponsored schemes in the Fourth Five-Year Plan in the field of Primary Education. Therefore, there is no earmarked Central assistance for Primary Education in 1969-70 or in the Fourth Five-Year Plan. -

DHARNA OUTSIDE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE

•366. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR :

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some freedom fighters staged a 'Dharna' outside the Prime Minister's House in New Delhi ;

(b) if so, what were their grievances ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to redress them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Their demand was for conferment of proprietary rights on the land allotted to them in Bir, Hissar, in 1954. The Government of Haryana have decided to depute an officer to scrutinise each case on the spot and to confer proprietary rights on those who fulfil all the conditions of the lease.