

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has approved the proposal; and
- (d) if so, the time likely to be taken to release the grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from the State Government of Maharashtra on 9.6.2012 for setting up of Girls' hostels in 43 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) of the State has been approved and Central grant of Rs. 2559.58 lacs has been released to the State Government for construction of 43 Girls' hostels in 43 EBBs of the State.

Educational satellite

880. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched educational satellite to facilitate school children and teachers in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount sanctioned and released under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) of the Government of India launched exclusive education satellite (EDUSAT-GSAT-3) on 20th September, 2004 with five regional beams and one national beam in extended C band and Ku band with capability to cover and cater to the needs of Education Sector for reaching the areas including rural, remote and hilly regions of our country. The cost for Satellite Band width is at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- per kilo bites per second per year which would be borne by ISRO.

(c) Funds have been allocated to different organizations for installing direct reception system to act as uplink centres from where the experts can teach and also install Direct Receiving System (DRS) — Receive Only Terminals (ROT), Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs), Wireless on Local Loop Systems to receive signals and to ask questions. For the education of children and training of teachers, elementary school sector, the Distance Education Programme installed 190 DRS at a cost of Rs. 73,75,150/-. Under Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, some States/UTs had proposed setting up of SITs or ROTs for which an amount of Rs. 14739.38 lakh was approved for SITs in five States and Rs. 114 lakh was approved for ROTs in one State for the years 2010-11 and 2011-12.