

Grants to schools under SSA

3414. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has been able to ensure that schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) receive their grants at the beginning of the school year;
- (b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the measures proposed to ensure timely delivery of funds to schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports States/UTs in providing annual school grants and maintenance grants to schools. The Central Government has already released Rs.9913.42 crore to the States/UT's as the first tranche of funds towards the Central share under the SSA, as of 1.8.2014. States are encouraged to release grants to schools early in the academic year so that funds are available with the schools during the academic year. Delays, if any are caused at the level of State Governments/ UT Administrations in further releases of grants to the school level accounts for the new academic session.

Setting up of colleges for vocational and higher secondary education

3415. SHRI KALPATARU DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Odisha Government has made a proposal for setting up of new colleges for vocational and higher secondary education in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of new colleges that are proposed to be set up in the State, as has been requested by the State to help meet their long-standing demand in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBINIRANI): (a) to (c) The Union Government received proposal from the Government of Odisha for introduction of Vocational Education in 30 new Adarsh Vidyalaya, strengthening of 231 existing Vocational Junior Colleges during 2013-14 and 30 new Government schools in 2014-15. Government of India after consideration of all the proposals approved 30 new Adarsh Vidyalaya from class IX onward in four skill sectors *i.e.* IT and ITeS, Automobiles, Retail and Security. The proposal for 231 Vocational Junior Colleges and 30 Government schools was not approved as they did not conform to the Scheme norms.