

(Interruptions) It is not implemented on holidays and during vacations. Sir, in Tamil Nadu, It is being implemented throughout the calendar year. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would assist the State Governments in implementing this programme throughout the calendar year for the benefit of those students who are studying in Government schools. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, how can we provide meal to students when the school is not running? *(Interruptions)*

*63. [The questions (Shrimati Vanga Geetha) was absent. For answer *vide* page 27.]

Elementary education and SSA in NE States

*64. DR. KARAN SINGH:†

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to strengthen the feedback gathering system on the progress of elementary education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in North-Eastern States;

(b) whether under the existing funding arrangement for elementary education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Union and State Governments, contribution ratio has been 75 and 25 per cent respectively;

(c) whether during the last two years some degree of stability was brought in NE States; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to achieve progress of elementary education and SSA in these States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme has improved in the North-Eastern States, in the last two years.

(d) The Central Government has provided timely financial and technical support to the North Eastern States for the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Karan Singh.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is one of the most important programmes that we have in this country. It is also a constitutional imperative. There have been some reports that the implementation of this Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the far-flung North-Eastern Region has been unsatisfactory for two reasons. One, there the State Governments concerned have not been giving their share of the fund; and, secondly, there has not been an adequate monitoring mechanism in these far-flung areas to ensure that the scheme is working properly. It is a very reassuring reply. Would the hon. Minister be kind enough to tell us whether some special monitoring mechanism is being set up, and, if there are paucity of funds, they are being made up for the very far-flung and vulnerable North-Eastern sector?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, so far as the funds are concerned, according to the scheme that is being implemented all over India, the funds are flowing to the North-East also. The North-East has its own problems. What the hon. Member is trying to say that, perhaps, the funds required from the State Governments in the North East, as their contribution to the scheme, sometimes, they are not able to fulfil that. And for that, I would like to inform the hon. Member that we had written to the Planning Commission that this pattern that is available all over the country of 75 per cent by the Centre and 25 per cent by the State, this should be relaxed in the case of North-East and Jammu and Kashmir. Though, that decision has not yet been taken in that way, but the Planning Commission and the Government of India have written to the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region for release of 15 per cent of the State's share of the North Eastern States, amounting to Rs. 90.07 crores, from the non-lapsable central pool of resources, funds to be provided to the respective North-Eastern States. In effect, this will mean that the State's share will come down to about 10 per cent, and that will help the States in the North-East very fast.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, that is a welcome move, and I hope the Planning Commission will respond positively to your suggestion that for the North-East and for Jammu and Kashmir, the 25 per cent should be waived.

Sir, my second supplementary is this. Is there a cut-off date for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or will it continue until the totality of our children are covered? Somewhere, I saw a note that the Mission period was up to

2010. Does that mean that the programme will come to an end in 2010, or, will the programme continue until each and every child in this country is able to get elementary education?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the objective at the moment is that we should complete this exercise by 2010. And, I hope, we will try to do it and we will succeed. But, in case there is any left over, obviously, the scheme cannot end at that time.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Minister to a Starred Question in Rajya Sabha, No. 80 of 2005, and the Minister had given a reply that as per the figures, the North-Eastern States and States like Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab, there has been no release of funds during 2001-03. During 2003-04 also, there was a very, very small release.

Keeping this in view, I would like to know whether the Government is planning to take up on a massive scale the scheme on a war-footing manner, throughout the country. I also would like to know how you are planning and by what means you are going to achieve this.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the pattern available all over the country and the pattern that the hon. Member, Dr. Karan Singh talked about the North-East, cannot be mixed. If there is a lack of response in any State, which the hon. Member is talking about in 2001-03, I would like to assure him that now the situation is not like that. Practically, in all States, especially the States he has mentioned, there is a very remarkable improvement in the approach of the State Governments and also the response from students.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, पूर्वोत्तर में बसे हमारे प्रदेश यहां से बहुत दूर भी हैं और दुर्गम भी हैं। इसलिए वहां सर्व-शिक्षा अभियान अच्छी तरह चले, यह हम सब की चिंता है, लेकिन प्रश्नकर्ताओं ने प्रश्न के भाग "सी" में मंत्री महोदय से पूछा था कि "whether during the last two years some degree of stability was brought in North Eastern States?" इसके जवाब में मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि "implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme has improved in the North-Eastern States in the last two years." इस का मतलब वहां अभी भी स्थायित्व नहीं आया है, लेकिन उन्होंने कहा है कि कुछ इम्प्रूव किया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि इस इम्प्रूवमेंट की कसौटी क्या है? दो वर्ष पहले कितना रहा और अब दो वर्ष के बाद कितना हुआ है? क्या मंत्री जी हमें प्रदेश-वार आंकड़े देकर बताएंगे कि वह किस आधार पर कह रहे हैं कि नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में सर्व-शिक्षा अभियान इम्प्रूव हुआ है?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : सर, मैं लिखित आंकड़े भी प्रस्तुत कर सकूंगा। इस समय वे मेरे पास नहीं हैं, लेकिन ओवर ऑल हमारा यही अनुभव है कि नॉर्थ ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में कई मायनों में सर्व-शिक्षा अभियान के जो मुद्दे हैं, उन के बहुत अच्छे परिणाम आ रहे हैं और मुझे विश्वास है कि बहुत जल्दी वहां स्टेबिलिटी आएगी जिसका माननीया सुषमा जी उल्लेख कर रही हैं।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : क्या आप प्रदेशवार आंकड़े उपलब्ध करा देंगे?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : बिल्कुल करा दूंगा।

डा. कुमकुम राय : सभापति महोदय, यह सर्व-शिक्षा अभियान पूर्वोत्तर के साथ-साथ देश के अन्य राज्यों में भी चल रहा है। मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि जो शिक्षा इस मित्र सर्व-शिक्षा अभियान से एक स्वयंसेवक कार्यकर्ता के रूप में जुड़े हुए हैं और बच्चों को शिक्षा प्रदान कर रहे हैं, उन को अभी मासिक रूप से 1500 रुपए मात्र मिलते हैं, तो एक तो आप शिक्षा मित्र के पद पर 50 प्रतिशत महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षण की व्यवस्था करेंगे और दूसरे उन्हें प्राप्त राशि को 1500 रुपए से बढ़ाए जाने का आप विचार रखते हैं?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, आरक्षण का प्रश्न नहीं उठता, लेकिन जहां तक इस विषय में प्रयास करने का सवाल है, उस विषय में राज्य सरकारों के उत्तरदायित्व को भी काफी हद तक ध्यान में लेना पड़ेगा।

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister has taken some steps to share the burden of State Governments, through the DONOR Ministry. But, Sir, I am not happy with the reply to question (d) regarding the release of funds to the State Governments. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any information that when the funds are to be released to the State Governments, there is a lot of delay at the Central Government level; and if he has that information, I would like to know what steps are being taken to release the funds on time.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I think the information, as the hon. Member has, may not be of the current situation. The release to the North-Eastern States now has improved. There is no delay as is being suggested. The fact is that now the amounts have to be spent by the State Governments after contributing whatever they can, and then only you can complete this programme. I want to tell you that in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 the releases have been—Arunachal Pradesh Rs. 1644.30 lakh, Assam Rs. 9971 lakh, Manipur Rs. 1327 lakh, Meghalaya Rs. 1925 lakh, Mizoram

Rs. 1650 lakh, Nagaland Rs. 1053 lakh, Sikkim Rs. 600 lakh and Tripura Rs. 3535 lakh. The total comes to more than Rs. 21700 lakh.

श्री सभापति : श्री कलराज मिश्र।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में सर्व शिक्षा अभियान को अधिकाधिक प्रचारित करने की दृष्टि से तकनीकी और आर्थिक सहयोग पर्याप्त मात्रा में दिया जा रहा है। माननीय कर्ण सिंह जी ने पहले ही प्रश्न के पहले हिस्से में पूछा है कि सर्व शिक्षा अभियान की जो प्रगति है, उसके लिए फीड बैक प्राप्त करने से सम्बन्धित प्रभावी प्रणाली अपनाई गई है या नहीं। इसका उत्तर तो नहीं आया है, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फीड बैक प्राप्त करने की वह प्रभावी प्रणाली कौन-सी है, जिसके आधार पर सही तौर पर यह पता लग सके कि सर्व शिक्षा अभियान पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में प्रभावी तौर पर चल रहा है?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : सभापति महोदय, समय-समय पर केन्द्रीय शासन ने 30 specific capacity building programmes on various inputs of SSA programme नॉर्थ ईस्टर्न में चालू किया है। SSA प्लानिंग में नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में 17 specific training programmes किए गए। नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स ने इन डेढ़ वर्षों में 15 नेशनल लेवल कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग प्रोग्राम्स में भाग लिया। इसके साथ-साथ मोनिटरिंग तो एक continuous process है। मोनिटरिंग रेगुलरली चल रहा है। मैं स्वयं नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में दो बार जा चुका हूँ। वहाँ के सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों से सम्पर्क करके विशेष तौर से इस प्रोग्राम को सफल बनाने के लिए निवेदन कर चुका हूँ। उनका रिस्पांस है इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि स्थिति पहले से अच्छी है।

Accountability of foreign channel operators

*65. SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA:†
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Amended Cable TV Network Rules, 1994 make foreign channel operators (Discovery, Ten Sports, Star Network and HBO) more accountable, as now they will have to register themselves by depositing Rs. 1.5 crore and also nominating an Indian for telecasting their programmes in the country;

(b) if so, whether a special mechanism has been evolved for this purpose; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vijay J. Darda.