

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

textbooks in lower classes done by a panel of eminent historians of impeccable credentials who would suggest what needs to be done in the shortterm,. Accordingly, a panel consisting of Prof. S. Settar, Prof. J. S. Grewal and Prof. Barun De has been constituted. Government will take appropriate decisions based on the report of the panel. As far as the subjects in social studies other than history are concerned, the forthcoming review of NCFSE will address these issues.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

*13. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether one of the oldest programmes meant for the children below age of six, adolescent girls and pregnant women have not been implemented properly for the last 30 years;

(b) if so, whether the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme has been able to cater to only sixteen per cent of the undernourished children;

(c) if so, whether the Supreme Court as per its order dated November 28, 2003 has asked the Central and State Governments as to why this Scheme has not been implemented; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme launched in 1975-76 is a nation-wide Early Childhood Care Programme which aims at holistic development of children (0-6 years) and pregnant and lactating mothers from disadvantaged sections by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education. The number of operational ICDS projects has increased from 3946 at the end of Eighth Plan (1996-97) to 5267 as on 31.3.2004. Similarly, the number of the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have increased from 3.47 lakh centres at the end of Eighth Plan (1996-97) to 6.49 lakh centres as on 31.3.2004. During this

period, the number of supplementary nutrition beneficiaries including pregnant and lactating mothers has also increased from 2.27 crore to 4.15 crore. As against the expenditure of Rs. 4556.52 crore incurred on the scheme in the Ninth Plan, the Tenth Plan allocation for the scheme is Rs. 10391.75 crore which is more than double the expenditure incurred during the Ninth Plan. This is also an important subject under CMP of the Government which states that the U.P.A. will universalize the ICDS scheme to provide a functional Anganwadi in every settlement and ensure coverage for all children.

(b) The ICDS scheme has been able to cover 3.41 crore children in the 0-6 years age group as on 31.3.2004 which is around 22% of the total children in that age group. Of the 3.41 crore children receiving supplementary nutrition, 53% are reported to be undernourished.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court has *vide* its order dated 28.11.2001 (not 28.11.2003) directed the States/Union Territories to provide supplementary nutrition to all eligible beneficiaries as per nutritional norms of the scheme and have disbursement centre in every settlement. As per the scheme, providing supplementary nutrition and programme implementation is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government has requested the States from time to time, to ensure compliance of the Supreme Court's order and effectively implement the programme.

Tuition fee in IIT and MM

*14. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Panel, constituted to suggest tuition fee in IIT and MM, has suggested a maximum fee of Rupees six thousand per annum and advised Government to reduce the fee accordingly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Panel and if so, the steps taken to reduce the fee for these courses; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?