

Students in Kolkata studying under open sky

*198. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that five lakh students of 550 primary schools in Kolkata and four major districts study under an open sky;

(b) if so, Government's policy on primary education; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that pupils are saved from agony of rain, heat and cold while attending schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) According to the Government of West Bengal, there are very few schools in the State which have no buildings and it is not a fact that five lakh students are studying under open sky. However, there are 50 schools in ten districts having no school building on account of floods. Kolkata has no such school with children studying in the open.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the National Policy on Education, 1986, the Scheme of Operation Blackboard was launched in 1987-88 to bring all existing primary schools in the country upto a minimum standard by way of physical facilities which *inter alia* included provision of at least two reasonably large all weather rooms along with a verandah and separate toilet facilities for boys and girls. Under the District Primary Education Programme upto 33% funds may be spent on civil works, including school buildings and additional classrooms. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, 33% funds of the primary education sector are to be utilised on construction of new school buildings and additional classrooms. The proposed Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan envisages a classroom for every teacher in primary and upper primary schools.

Reduction in subsidy in Railways

†*199. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the financial crisis, it has been decided

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.