

[19 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Gurudakshina Tax

†655. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of imposing "Gurudakshina" tax by UGC on the graduates getting first job in a public or private sector after completion of education is under Government's consideration, if so, what are the aims and reasons for such proposal;

(b) whether Government have agreed to this proposal and propose to accord its approval; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to Nagaland

656. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allotted and released to Nagaland under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-05, district-wise;

(b) whether request of the State Government for more funds is still pending with Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to speed up the process of releasing more funds under the schemes?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Information is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(b) An amount of Rs. 971.96 lakhs has been released on 18.5.2004 to the State. Annual Work Plan & Budget of the State for 2004-05 has also been approved on 30.6.2004.

(c) and (d) Question do not arise.

Statement

Details of funds allotted and released to Nagaland under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during 2003-04 and 2004-05

Government of India releases Central assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to State SSA Society which, in turn, releases funds to the districts. In 2003-04, the approved annual plan outlay for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for Nagaland was Rs. 2951.50 lakhs. However, the State did not release its share in 2002-03, and had an unspent balance of Rs. 863.52 lakhs as on 31st March, 2003. It was, therefore, decided that central assistance for 2003-04 would be released only after State share has been released. Intimation regarding release of state share was received only in March, 2004, whereafter Government of India, released Rs. 971.96 lakhs on 18.5.2004.

Year-wise details are as follows:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	2003-04		2004-05	
		Approved outlay	District-wise amt. released*	Approved outlay	District-wise amt. released*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Dimapur	348.92	120.5	477.2	113.21
2.	Kohima	368.09	146.91	425.06	110.66
3.	Mokokchung	276.99	104.11	466.41	63.74
4.	-Mon	493.86	91.36	408.78	115.09

*District-wise amount released by State Government against lumpsum released by Central Government.

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1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Phek	304.92	94.12	350.2	77.09
6.	Tuensang	559.56	181.88	599.04	165.75
7.	Wokha	229.65	73.36	341.77	71.51
8.	Zunheboto	318.36	111.84	336.46	90.81
9.	State Com ponent	51.15	91.15	34.78	3.26
TOTAL		2951.5	1015.23	3439.7	811.12

DD News Channel

657.SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government had started a news channel 'DD News' in November 2003 by scrapping an entertainment channel on Doordarshan;

(b)if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c)the amount spent so far on this news channel;

(d)whether viewership of the news channel has also declined, if so, the details thereof;

(e)whether Government propose to review this decision and convert the DD News channel into the entertainment channel as before; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan started a 24 hours 'DD News' Channel w.e.f. 3rd November, 2003 by converting their Metro Channel to provide free-to-air round the clock news, in both the terrestrial and satellite modes. It is the only terrestrial news channel in the country. Prasar Bharati has informed that the decision has been taken to fulfil a growing demand for news among the viewers, particularly among those without cable connection.