

Diversion of SSA funds

2443. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the funds released under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are getting misused or diverted to some other expenses and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on the veracity of the matter and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Allocation of outlays of the States and UTs under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme is made on the basis of the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) prepared by them based on their requirements and priorities and approved as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme, which includes the share of both the Centre and State. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SSA is implemented in partnership with all States and UTs. The approved outlay is apportioned between Central and State share as per the existing funds sharing pattern of 60:40 (90:10 for North-Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States). 100% Central share is provided to Union Territories. The releases of due Central share are subject to, amongst other things, the mandatory submission of the requisite documents such as utilization certificate, progress report, audit report, the release of commensurate State share by States and the availability of budgetary resources at the Budget Estimate/Revised Estimate stage. The funds released as Central share/State share are utilized for the implementation of approved interventions and components of the SSA Programme for universalization of elementary education.

To further ensure the effective implementation of SSA Programme, there are robust monitoring systems in place which includes an annual audit by independent Chartered Accountants empanelled with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, a regular CAG audit, a system of concurrent financial reviews, as well as regular internal audit. The component/intervention-wise quarterly reviews, an annual Educational Management Information System (EMIS) and regular meetings with State officials are also held to ensure effective implementation of the programme. A Manual on Financial Management and Procurement also assists States in streamlining implementation and financial management.