

commissioned in 2013 by the Central Government entitled "Survey for assessment of drop out at the elementary level" in 21 States. According to the study, major factors of drop-out have been identified as lack of interest in studies, economic reasons, family migrated to other place and help in domestic work to the parents.

The Central Government, through National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), has developed a Shaala Siddhi, a National Programme on School Standards and Evaluation (NPSSE) which is a comprehensive instrument for school evaluation leading to school improvement irrespective of the area, whether rural or urban. It aims to enable schools to evaluate their performance in a more focused and strategic manner and facilitate them to make professional judgment for improvement. The programme's objective is to establish and refer to an agreed set of standards and to provide clear pathways for each school for self evaluation by focusing on key performance domains and their core standards for school evaluation. Further, the Central Government has launched Shagun portal to monitor various interventions of SSA. Through this portal, States and UTs will be able to share their progress on physical targets and fund utilization.

Some States have developed their own programme of school evaluation like Gunotsava (Gujarat), Pratibha Parve (Madhya Pradesh), Sambalan (Rajasthan) and Samiksha (Odisha) etc.

Grants higher education to Odisha

2154. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cumulative dues with regard to higher education grants by Government to the State of Odisha have reached up to more than ₹ 200 crore;

(b) if so, by when these dues would be cleared; and

(c) the reasons behind accumulation of such huge dues of grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRANATH PANDEY): (a) to (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), the Central Government provides funds in the centre: state ratio of 60:40 to the States, 90:10 to

North-Eastern Region (NER), Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand and 100% to Union Territories.

The Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA has approved ₹ 688 crores to the State of Odisha under various components of RUSA. Out of this, ₹ 412.8 crores is the Central Share approved. As on date, ₹ 212.4255 crores has been released as Central Share.

The Central Share is provided in instalments to the States/UTs. The first instalment is released after compliance of conditions, if any, as approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA such as submission of a complete Detailed Project Report (DPR). The subsequent releases to States/UTs are subject to submission of Utilisation Certificate of more than 75% utilisation of the previous instalment. Further, the final instalment is released only after the concerned State/UT submits the Utilisation Certificate for the previous instalments released together with physical inspection report of institutions funded under RUSA.

The release of the total approved Central Share to the State of Odisha is dependent upon submission of complete DPRs and relevant Utilisation Certificates along with physical inspection report by the State.

Status of Institutes of National Importance for NISER

2155. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any request from the State Government of Odisha to grant the status of Institute of National Importance through an Act of Parliament to the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Institute of Science Education & Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar, is an Off-Campus Centre of the Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), a deemed to be University, which is an Aided Institute under the Department of Atomic Energy. As the Department of Atomic Energy is considering conversion of HBNI, into an Institute of National Importance (INI), it is not felt necessary to have a separate Act to give the status of INI to NISER.