

Drop out of children

2809. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to estimates, only 51 per cent of children enrolled in Class I reaches Class XII;

(b) if so, whether Government would evolve new plans to improve the retention rate upto Class XII to reach 75 per cent by 2012;

(c) whether Government have drawn up the Scheme for Universal Access and Quality at the Secondary Stage (SUCCESS), to strengthen the secondary education system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per provisional statistics available for the year 2004-05, the drop out rate in Classes I-X is 61.9%. Drop out rates for standard XII is not calculated.

(b) to (d) A concept note has been prepared for implementing a scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during Eleventh Five Year Plan. The main objective of the proposed scheme is to provide access to good quality secondary schools within a reasonable distance of every habitation.

Siphoning off of funds for SSA in Jharkhand

2810. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of money is siphoned off from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan project in Jharkhand;

(b) whether Government have constantly been monitoring the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan projects and if so, the details of funds siphoned off; and

(c) the number of cases reported during the last three years and the action taken in respect of these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme has undertaken several steps to ensure proper financial management of the State programmes by laying down a Manual for Financial Management and Procurement, provision of annual statutory audit by independent auditors, strengthened internal audit mechanisms and conducting of independent concurrent financial reviews for all States and UTs.

Instances of procedural lapses or irregularities, which come to light as a result, are dealt with firmly and corrective action taken. No financial embezzlements have been reported except one recently in Andhra Pradesh for which the State and Central Governments have taken strict action.