GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 374
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2021

Cess on secondary and higher education

374# SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL :

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of ` 94036 crore has been collected through Secondary and Higher Education Cess which was established in 2017 as a "One Fund" for secondary and higher education funding;
when was the disbursal started from this fund;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount collected from cess was kept in Consolidated Fund of India instead of the said fund, if so, who is responsible for this violation; and

(c) the action taken and proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a): The Secondary and Higher Education Cess (SHEC) was introduced in the Finance Act 2007. The collection under SHEC for the period 2006-07 to 2017-18 as per Union Government Finance Accounts is Rs 94035.52 Cr. The Union Cabinet approved creation of Madhyamik and Uchchtar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK) on 16.08.2017, as non-interest bearing reserve fund in the Public Account.

(b)& (c) : Article 266 (1) of the Constitution states that all revenues received by Government of India, all loans raised by the Government and all moneys received shall form one consolidated fund to be entitled "The Consolidated Fund of India". These revenues include funds, cash and non-tax revenues. Article 266(3) stipulates that moneys from the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) are appropriated by means of the Appropriation Act. The latter is provided under Article 114 of the Constitution. Since 2017-18, Government of India has by means of passing relevant Appropriation Acts, as per the law, allocated an amount of ₹ 1,84,474.17 Crore (Net) till date, under Department of Higher Education. The expenditure was incurred after passing Appropriation Acts for the respective financial years. Since the expenditure was incurred from the CFI as per Article 114 and as mentioned in Article 266(3) there has been no violation of the Constitutional provisions. Government of India has deficit budget financing and hence no amount is left unutilized at the close of financial year.

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