

World class schools

2844. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have felt the need to set up world class schools, to attract investment and give better education;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Unspent funds under OBB and DPEP

2845. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that funds allotted during the last three years under the Operation Black Board and District Primary Education Programme largely went unspent every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of unspent funds for the above programmes during the same period, State-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to increase the literacy rate of tribal women in Orissa, which is the lowest in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) There have been some delays in utilization of funds released for Teaching Learning Equipment (TLE) under Operation Black Board to States/UTs. Under DPEP funds are released in advance to States to meet the requirements for the next six months as per the project guidelines. However, there have been some unspent amounts also on account of the slow pace of utilization in some States. The unspent balance with States/UTs in respect of Operation Black Board and District Primary Education Programme is given in the Statement enclosed. (See below)