

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

HUNDRED – TWENTY EIGHTH REPORT
ON

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE HUNDRED
NINETEENTH REPORT ON
THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION & LITERACY
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 10TH APRIL, 2003)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 10TH APRIL, 2003)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
APRIL, 2003/VAISAKHA, 1925 (SAKA)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2003)

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Shri H.K. Chanana, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Joint Director
Shri C.B. Rai, Under Secretary
Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer
Smt. Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

PREFACE

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Hundred Twenty Eighth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Hundred Nineteenth Report on Demands for Grants (Demand No.50) of the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2002-2003.

2. The Hundred Nineteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was presented to Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 30th April, 2002. Replies of the Government on the recommendations contained in the Report, received from the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 8th January, 2003.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 7th April, 2003.

NEW DELHI
April 7, 2003
Chaitra 17, 1925 (Saka)

ARJUN SINGH
Chairman
**Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committee on *Human Resource Development***

REPORT

The Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in its One Hundred Nineteenth Report on Demands for Grants (Demand No.50) of the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2002-2003 presented to Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on the 30th April, 2002.

2. Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of the recommendations contained in the Report. They have been categorized as follows:-

Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: 5.7, 8.5&8.6
(Chapter I) Total-3

Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 5.5, 6.2, 6.4, 7.4, 7.6, 8.8, 8.10, 9.5, 10.3, 12.3
(Chapter II) Total- 18

Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: 3.2, 4.4, 8.12, 9.8, 11.4, 13 (Chapter-III) Total- 6

Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited by the Committee: (Chapter IV) Total- **NIL**

The final replies in respect of the recommendations/observations made in Chapter IV of the Report are still awaited from the Department. The Committee may be apprised of the same as and when action is taken.

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER I

OPERATION BLACKBOARD

Recommendations/Observation

5.7 The Committee notes that against Ninth Plan allocation of Rs. 1955.04 crores under Operation Blackboard, utilization figures upto 18.03.02 are only Rs. 1719.83 crores. Trend of under-utilization of funds was due to unspent balance lying with various State Governments due to one reason or the other. The Committee has been informed that during 2001-2002, amount of unspent balance was brought down from Rs. 377 crores to Rs. 228 crores as a result of concerted efforts made by the State Governments. All the concerned State Governments have now been requested to liquidate the unspent balance by June, 2002. The Committee is of the opinion that large number of vacant posts of teachers and non-utilisation of funds for the various components of Operation Blackboard is a clear indication that the Scheme has failed to achieve the targetted results. The Committee hopes that all these inherent shortcomings noticed under the Scheme over a period of time must have assisted the Department in taking all the corrective measures in the formulation and implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Action Taken

Against Ninth Plan allocation of Rs. 1955.04 crore, a sum of Rs. 1751.27 crore (about 90%) has been utilized.

There has been unspent balances with States/UTs towards procurement of Teaching Learning Equipment (TLE). The unspent balance is monitored regularly in meetings/conferences, etc.

The Department has taken into account the shortcomings found in the implementation of Operation Blackboard while formulating norms for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Further Comments of the Department

The Department has further informed that while implementing the Operation Blackboard through States/UTs, it noticed two main problems- delay in the appointment of teachers, and slow pace of utilization of funds.

Under the scheme, salary payment was covered till the end of the Five Year Plan period in which appointments were made and the liability with regard to teachers' salary was transferred thereafter to the States/UTs. Under this arrangement, some States were getting financial assistance for teachers' salary usually for 2-3 years, most of them were reluctant to create new posts of teachers even if they required it urgently. In fact, States expected Central assistance for teachers' salary for an assured longer period. This demand of the State Governments was kept in mind while formulating the norms for interventions under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Under this programme, support for teachers' salary could be shared between the Central Government and the State Governments in a ratio of 85:15 during the Ninth Plan, 75:25 during Tenth Plan and 50:50 thereafter.

The slow pace of utilizing the funds sanctioned for Teaching Learning Equipment (TLE) under the scheme of Operation Blackboard could *inter-alia* be attributed to several factors, such as lack of sufficient flexibility; procurement procedure; mode of release of funds, etc. These hurdles have been neutralized by effecting community ownership of school-based interventions through effective decentralization in SSA. Further, funds under the scheme of SSA are directly released to the implementing agencies/societies for ensuring higher and timely utilization of funds.

The constructions of school buildings under the scheme of Operation Blackboard were to be made under the programmes of Rural Development on sharing basis. Often such funds were not available. In SSA provisions have been made for utilizing funds on civil works upto 33% of the entire project cost approved by Project Approval Board on the basis of perspective plans prepared for the period till 2010.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT TO PRIMARY EDUCATION (MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME)

Recommendations/Observation

8.5 Regarding lifting of foodgrains, it has been noted over the years that lifting has been poor as the given table would indicate:

Year	Allocation (MTs)	Lifting (MTs)
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1995-96	713223	536016
1996-97	1585388	1112489
1997-98	2567372	1810164
1998-99	2706274	1147917
1999-2000	2767251	1401765
2000-2001	2480692	1517816
2001-2002	2862475	1673948 (upto January, 2002)

8.6 On a specific query about the steps taken by the Department to overcome the poor lifting of allocated foodgrains from FCI Depots, the Department stated that States are being continuously requested to lift optimum quantity of foodgrains. This matter had also been taken up by the Minister of HRD with the CMs of States. It was explained that as far as North Eastern states are concerned, high transportation cost in lifting foodgrains is due to FCI not having adequate depots.

Action Taken

8.5 & 8.6: In so far as poor lifting is concerned, it is submitted that the lifting had progressively improved since 1998-99. During 2001-02, against an allocation of 2862475.35 MTs, 2076764 MTs of foodgrains were lifted which is 72.55 % of the allocation. It is expected that during the current year, the lifting position would further improve.

Further Comments of the Department

In reply to a query regarding improvement in lifting of foodgrains in North Eastern States, the Department replied that as per the figures supplied by Food Corporation of India, under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme during the last three years there had been increase in lifting of foodgrains. Year-wise and State-wise allocation and lifting of foodgrains in NE-States during 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 are:

(Qty. in MT.s)

S. No.	NE- STATES	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03				
No.		Allocation of food grains	Off-take of foodgrains	Allocation of food grains	Off-take of foodgrains	Allocation of foodgrains	Off-take of foodgrains	Allocation of foodgrains	Off-take of food grains*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	ASSAM	70042	6823	70149.00	8685.00	91716.63	32033.00	91716.63	21776.0
	ARUNACHAL								
2	PRADESH.	4531	152	3434.00	402.00	4305.00	550.00	4999.11	421.00
3	MANIPUR	7637	6202	6751.00	6379.00	8389.44	6485.00	8625.18	5004.0
4	MEGHALAYA	9615	150	8911.00	2010.00	12573.36	8416.00	13041.06	6708.0
5	MIZORAM	2918	2044	2918.00	2628.00	2947.17	2358.00	2808.24	562.00
6	NAGALAND	2920	3640	3038.00	2980.00	4789.92	4615.00	4789.92	2874.0
7	SIKKIM	2550	547	2264.00	1447.00	2420.10	2366.00	2310.99	1303.0
8	TRIPURA	1427	1427	1533.00	5094.00	14239.65	9256.00	13799.43	3158.0
	TOTAL	101640	20985	98998	29625	141381.27	66079	142090.56	41806.0
	% age of offtake of foodgrains		20.65%		29.92%		46.74%		29.42%

* Off-take of foodgrains for the year 2002-03 is upto September 2002.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

INTRODUCTION

Recommendations/Observation

An attempt to make Elementary Education a Fundamental Right and justiciable under the Constitution by shifting it from Directive Principles of State Policy, which is non-justiciable, marks a bold initiative. It shows the commitment of the nation to provide 'Education for All', priority being free and compulsory elementary education, coverage of children with special needs, eradication of illiteracy, vocationalisation, women's education and special focus on education of socially disadvantaged sections. It is true that in the field of Elementary Education, progress towards Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) has been made. Concerted efforts have resulted in the manifold increase in institutions, teachers, students. National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) indicates that 79 percent children in the age group of 6-14 are attending school. Even though there has been considerable improvement in the participation of girl children belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, religious and linguistic minorities etc., the goal of UEE still remains elusive.

Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) has also pointed out that our performance in the field of education is one of the most disappointing aspects of our development strategy. Out of approximately 200 million children in the age group 6-14 years, only 120 million are in school and net attendance in the primary level is only 66% of enrolment. Therefore, it has been suggested that the Tenth Plan should aim at a radical transformation in this situation. 'Education for All' must be one of the primary objectives of the Tenth Plan.

Action Taken

1.1 & 1.2 : The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would cover all districts in the country and aims at providing universal enrolment by the year 2003. The specific goals of SSA are :

all children in schools

Education Guarantee Centre

Alternate schools

Back to school camp by 2003.

Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at Elementary level by 2010.

As on date, under SSA, 521 out of the 599 districts have been approved of their Annual Districts Elementary Education Plan for development of infrastructure in schools, proper distribution of teachers, provision of teacher training facilities and teaching learning equipment etc.

The SSA envisaged the constitution of a National Mission whose Governing Council is headed by the Prime Minister and has representation of all stakeholders. The Executive Committee of the Mission is headed by Human Resource Development Minister. The Project Approval Board is headed by Secretary (EE&L).

Further Comments of the Department

To a query regarding the time by which the Annual Districts Elementary Education Plan of the remaining districts were likely to be approved, the Department informed that till 12/11/2002, Annual Plan 2002-03 of 362 districts had been approved, and plans of another 211 districts had been received which were being appraised. Only 39 districts had not been covered either in 2001-02 or 2002-03. Of these 39 districts plans had been received for 13 districts of Rajasthan, leaving only 26 districts who had not sent any plans so far. These include 9 districts of Manipur, 2 of Goa, 1 of Chandigarh, 9 of Delhi, 2 districts each of A & N Islands, and Daman & Diu and 1 district of Dadra & N. Haveli. Government of India was persuading these States to send their plans early.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION STATUS

Recommendations/Observation

2.1 During the period 1950-51 to 1999-2000, the number of primary schools has increased three-fold and the number of upper primary schools by about 15 times. Total enrolment at the Primary stage increased by 5.91 times, from 19.2 million in 1950-51 to about 113.61 million in 1999-2000. Total

enrolment at the upper primary level increased by 13 times from 3.1 million in 1950-51 to 42.06 million in 1999-2000. During this period, the growth rate of girls' enrolment at the elementary level was higher as compared to that of the boys. So far as retention level is concerned, from 64.9 per cent at the primary level in 1960-61, the drop-out rate decreased to 40.25 per cent in 1999-2000 and from 78.3 per cent in upper primary level in 1960-61, it decreased to 54.8 per cent in 1999-2000. However, what is discouraging is the fact that even though the number of teachers has increased, this has not kept pace with the growth of enrolment. From 1:24 in 1950-51, the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) at primary education level worsened to about 1:43 in 1999-2000. Similarly, from 1:20 at the Upper Primary level the PTR has gone to 1:38 in 1999-2000. Proportionate growth in the number of teachers is, therefore, essential for qualitative improvement in PTR.

Action Taken

No Comments

Further Comments of the Department

In reply to a query as to the causes for deterioration in Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) both at primary education level as well as upper primary level and the steps proposed to improve the same, the Department replied that the increased enrolment has not been matched by the appointment of additional teachers which has led to the deteriorating PTR. The States have been found to be reluctant to appoint teachers due to the long-term commitment of funds for the purpose. SSA provides for additional teachers to bring the PTR to 40:1. Unlike other programmes, Government of India has made a long term commitment of funds under SSA, though on a diminishing scale of 85:15 in 9th Plan, 75:25 in 10th Plan and 50:50 thereafter. This would enable the States to access the SSA funds and appoint teachers to improve the PTR.

Recommendations/Observation

2.2 Though participation of girls at all levels of school education has increased substantially, the Committee observes that the proportion of girls enrolled both at the primary and upper primary levels continues to be lower than the gross enrolment of boys. Vast disparities still exist amongst the States/UTs in terms of enrolment with educationally backward States having a much lower GER than the all India average. Position is the same in respect of school retention rate. For example GER for Class I-V in Bihar and UP is 57.04 and 65.69 respectively. Similarly, drop-out rate on Bihar and UP is 71.11 and 56.51, respectively. Moreover, in case of girls, in general, the dropout rates are as high as 42% and 58% at Primary and Upper Primary stage, respectively. The Committee observes that a number of schemes in elementary education sector have been in operation which have resulted in considerable improvement in the overall scenario. In spite of that, quite a few problem areas, like poor infrastructure in schools, improper distribution of teachers, presence of single-teacher schools, inefficient teaching methods, etc. still remain. The Committee hopes that with the launching of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a composite scheme of elementary education and all-round improvement will occur.

Action Taken

No Comments

Further Comments of the Department

In response to a query as to how a PRI is made part of the process of achieving the goal of UEE and to what extent they are helping in achieving the goal of all children in school and whether any special effort has been made to overcome the problem of low GER in educationally backward States, the Department replied that SSA provides for setting up of Village Education Committees/ School Management Committees which are responsible for managing the schools. This Ministry has written to States to provide powers and specify functions of Village Education Committees and other School Management Committees within the framework of Panchayati Raj. Funds for school improvement and maintenance are given to these Committees. The VECs have been entrusted with the responsibility of not only seeing that the schools are managed properly but to ensure that the children who are out-of-school are brought to the school. The habitation level planning would ensure that the problems of the backward areas are reflected in the plans and strategies devised for out-of-school children

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

Recommendations/Observation

4.1 The Ninth Plan allocation for Elementary Education has been Rs.16,369.59 crores. However, approved allocation was Rs.11,963.41 crores. Expenditure during Ninth Plan (upto 18th March, 2002) was Rs.14,225.58 crores. It will, thus, be seen that there was a drastic cut in the approved allocation *vis-a-vis* the original allocation for the Ninth Plan. However, the expenditure exceeded the approved allocation. Similarly, for Adult Education, Ninth Plan allocation was Rs.630.39 crores and expenditure during the Plan (upto 18th March, 2002) was Rs.517.00 crores. If the expenditure upto the 18th March, 2002 on Adult Education is taken into consideration, it appears that full utilization of the Ninth Plan allocation may not be possible. There is likely to be some saving under this head. The Tenth Plan requirement based on Working Group Report for Elementary Education is Rs.59,684.31 crores and for 2002-2003 it is Rs.11,502.51 crores. However, total budget provision for 2002-2003 for Elementary Education including allocation for North East is Rs.4667.00 crores. As regards Adult Education, Tenth Plan requirement based on Working Group Report is Rs.6339.50 crores and for 2002-2003 it is Rs.918.10 crores. However, Budget provision for 2002-2003 is Rs.233.00 crores only.

4.2 The Committee has been informed that the Department had projected a requirement of Rs.9015.25 crores for the annual plan 2002-2003 for elementary education sector, after discussion with the Planning Commission. However, the Planning Commission has provided an amount of Rs.4667.00 crores only against said minimum requirement. This drastic cut would affect adversely the targets which have been fixed for the year 2002-2003 in regard to goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education. In 2001-2002, an amount of Rs.350 crores was cut out of the approved Budget Estimate of Rs.4000.00 crores though the Department had, in fact projected an additional requirement of Rs.268 crores in the RE 2001-2002.

4.3 The Committee has observed over the years that for various schemes under Elementary Education budget projected at BE stage is quite high which is drastically reduced at the RE stage. However, what is more distressing is that even this reduced allocation is not fully utilized. The Committee is perturbed to note that in 2001-2002, there was 18% non-utilisation for Teacher's training, 75% in Education Guarantee Scheme, 75% in Shiksha Karmi Project, 67% in Mahila Samakhya Programme, 18% in National Council of Teachers Education. The Secretary of the Department while agreeing that in the previous years, the utilization of funds, as compared to the B.E. had been low, mentioned basically two reasons for this. According to him, one was that the allocation itself got reduced during Revised Estimates. The other reason was that the utilization certificates from the States/U.Ts. were not forthcoming due to which further releases of funds had to be stopped. He, however, hoped that in 2002-2003, full utilization would be made.

Action Taken

4.1, 4.2 & 4.3 : The Planning Commission has allocated Rs.500 crores more for Mid-Day-Meal scheme, thus providing Rs.30,000 crores for Department of Elementary Education and Literacy during 10th Plan.

During 2001-2002 Rs.3569.16 crores was spent as against the RE of Rs.3574.75 crores, registering 99.84% utilization (BE 3800 crores). The utilization during 2001-2002 was 96% under the scheme of Restructuring and Reorganization of Teacher Education (BE 221 crores RE 180 crores expenditure Rs.172.82 crores), 83.23% under EGS&AIE Scheme (against RE of 100 crores) 100% under Shiksha Karmi Project (against RE of Rs.10.00 crores) 86.12% under Mahila Samakhya (against RE of 9.00 crores) and 100% under NCTE (against RE of Rs.4.50 crores).

Recommendations/Observation

4.5 The Committee also observes that there is no preparatory exercise before any scheme is introduced in the Budget. It is the general practice that budgetary allocation is made for a scheme pending necessary surveys and clearances from various authorities. Sometimes, the entire financial year is over and the scheme is yet not approved. This practice makes the entire budgetary exercise unrealistic leading to under-utilisation of funds. This state of affairs is highly unsatisfactory and betrays total lack of commitment on the part of authorities. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its earlier

recommendation given in the 103rd Report that all procedural formalities should be completed before including a scheme in the budget and would like to be apprised of the action taken in this behalf.

Action Taken

The SSA has evolved an effective budgeting and appraisal mechanism for infusing commitment on the part of the authorities implementing the scheme. Appraisal and costing are done by experts so that realistic estimates are arrived at.

Further Comments of the Department

In response to a specific query whether an approach of completing all procedural formalities before including any scheme in the budget is adopted, the Department replied that all procedural formalities are followed before including a scheme / programme in the budget. The latest scheme in the Elementary Education sector is Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which was launched after completing all formalities. However, the Committee's recommendations would be borne in mind in future.

OPERATION BLACKBOARD

Recommendations/Observation

The Committee has been given to understand that under the Scheme of Operation Blackboard during the entire period of the Ninth Plan physical target fixed for third teachers for Primary Schools was 1,58,000. Against this, the posts of only 48,153 teachers were sanctioned. Similarly, against the physical target of 1,23,624 upper primary schools, 90,420 posts of teachers were sanctioned. As regards additional teachers for upper primary schools against the physical target of 1,23,624, only 40,730 posts could be sanctioned. The Committee is disturbed to note that for the States of Haryana, Mizoram, Nagaland and West Bengal, even though 1204, 106, 161 and 2353 additional teachers, respectively, for upper primary schools were sanctioned not a single teacher was appointed in these States. In the case of Assam, Maharashtra and Orissa against the sanctioned posts of 6730, 10969 and 10023, only 2851, 7064 and 7741 teachers, respectively, were appointed. This shows that there has been a wide gap between the lofty targets fixed and actually achieved. This calls for serious rethinking of our planning and implementation process.

Action Taken

5.5 The initial physical targets were set subject to availability of funds in the Ninth Plan. However, the Ninth Plan allocation was reduced to Rs. 1955.04 crore, out of which, Rs. 1751.27 crore (about 90% of the funds) has been utilized on the implementation of Operation Blackboard.

The scheme of Operation Blackboard covered all new posts for payment of salary till the end of the Five Year Plan period in which appointments were made. At the end of the Plan period, the liability with regard to teacher salary is transferred to State Government. Under this arrangement, States usually get financial assistance for teacher salary for 2-3 years and thus most of the States were reluctant to create new posts of teachers even when such posts are required urgently. In fact, States wanted Central assistance for teacher salary for an assured longer period. This demand of the State Governments has been kept in mind while formulating the norms for interventions under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan where the funding pattern will support the salaries of teachers on a long-term basis.

Further Comments of the Department

In reply to a query regarding the formula for appointing teachers for the full realization of the goal of UEE under SSA, and the funding pattern to support teachers salaries on a long-term basis, as well as the extent to which States are agreeable to this funding pattern, the Department replied that the appointment of teachers was as per the policy adopted by the States. Government of India was only insisting that the NCTE guidelines were followed as far as the qualifications of the teachers were concerned. The funding would be on the pattern of SSA, i.e. 85:15 in the 9th Plan, 75:25 in the 10th Plan and, 50:50 thereafter. While some States have expressed the desire for reduction of the State's share, the present system was better in the sense that the commitment of Government of India was a long-term one in contrast to other schemes where the Central assistance ceased after the Plan period.

TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

Recommendations/Observation

6.2 The Committee was informed that the Planning Commission has agreed, in principle, for

continuation of the Scheme, as suggested by the Working Group on Elementary and Adult Education for Tenth Five Year Plan. The Working Group, however, recommended some modifications in the Scheme for qualitative improvement and coordinated development in the field of Elementary Teacher Education with increased involvement of the States. The modifications suggested by the Working Group will be placed before the EFC and Cabinet for approval in due course. Till that time, the Scheme is expected to continue in its present form.

Action Taken

No comments.

Further Comments of the Department

In reply to a specific query as to the present status of the modification suggested by the Working Group on Elementary and Adult Education for Tenth Plan, the Department replied that EFC Memo had been prepared with the modification suggested by the Working Group and referred to Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for comments, after getting the comments of IFD. Proposal would be sent to the Cabinet for approval after finalization of the EFC.

Recommendations/Observation

6.4 The Committee is constrained to note that this under utilisation trend has been there during the entire Ninth Plan period. Against total Ninth Plan allocation of Rs.954.59 crores, expenditure reported upto 18.3.02 is only Rs.754.66 crores. The main reason given for funds not being released is non-submission of requisite information including the approval of the appropriate authority by some States/UTs. As a result, physical targets fixed under the scheme for Ninth Plan period almost remained on paper. The Committee finds that against the target of setting up 100 new District Institute for Education and Trainings (DIETs), 125 College of Teacher Educations (CTEs) and 15 Institute of Advanced Study in Educations (IASEs), only 39 DIETs, 9 CTEs and 4 IASEs could be set-up. Not only this, the Committee is perturbed to note that against 470 DIETs sanctioned, only 427 are reported to be functional. The Committee has been given to understand that some of the DIETs, specially in NE States are not fully operational. The Committee notes that there is considerable gap between number of districts and DIETs to be set up in NE States particularly, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. The Committee recommends that DIETs should be established and made functional in all the 600 districts in the country within a time-bound Action Plan and Committee should be apprised of the same. The Committee hopes that efforts will be made to get the EFC approval to some modifications suggested by the Working Group for qualitative improvement and coordinated development of the Programme at the earliest.

Action Taken

A Major problem has been that States have not been able to frame recruitment rules and place appropriate faculty in place in these Institutions. The Planning at the State level is important and it has been stressed through MoUs already signed or being signed with the States that effective operationalisation of the scheme will regulate the flow of Central assistance. Monitoring of the scheme is done through Progress Reports being sent by the States and also by visits of officials of this Department. States have been requested to complete the construction work in new DIETs to make these institutes operational as it has been targeted to achieve the objective of covering all the districts in the country with a well functioning DIET and also for an overall improvement in the quality of schooling, teachers and teacher educators. The encouragement of State initiative and their accountability will be the focus areas. Establishment of 20-25 new DIETs is the target for 1st year of the 10th Five Year Plan. Action on modification of guidelines for extending Central assistance as suggested in the Report of Working Group on Elementary & Adult Education on 10th Five Year Plan has already been initiated and EFC on these modifications will be prepared as early as possible.

Further Comments of the Department

On a request to furnish detailed, state wise, information regarding DIETs., CTEs and IASEs in the NE states in terms of districts covered and the target fixed for these states during 2002-2003, the Department supplied the following chart:-

Statement giving State-wise information on DIETs, CTEs and IASEs are as under:-

State	No. of Distts.	Number Sanctioned		
		DIETs	CTEs	IASEs
(as per information available)				
Arunachal Pradesh	13	11	0	0
Assam	23	19	10	0
Manipur	9	8	1	0
Meghalaya	7	7	2	0
Mizoram	8	2	1	0
Nagaland	8	6	1	0
Tripura	4	4	0	1
Sikkim	4	3	0	0
Total	76	60	15	1

As per target, 20 DIETs are to be established during the year with no specific number for NE States. Sanction of DIET will depend on the proposals forwarded by the States.

EDUCATION GUARANTEE SCHEME AND ALTERNATE & INNOVATIVE EDUCATION (EGS&AIE)

Recommendations/Observation

7.4 One of the main strategies under EGS&AIE is setting up of schools in school-less habitations within a radius of one km. As per the Sixth All India Educational Survey-1993, out of a total number of 10,60,612 habitations, 1,76,523 are school-less habitations. The Committee finds that NE States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and also Himachal Pradesh, J&K and A&N Islands have maximum number of unserved habitations. The Committee observes that these States/UTs have not identified State level societies for implementation of EGS&AIE so far. The Committee recommends that the Department should vigorously pursue with these State Governments to expedite the preparatory work so that the Scheme could be launched there at the earliest during 2002-2003 and it may be apprised of the action taken.

Action Taken

While letters have been written to the State Governments for expediting initial formalities like identifying State Societies for implementing EGS & AIE Scheme and signing of Memorandum of Understanding so that the proposals of these States could be considered for release of grants, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura have identified Societies for implementation of EGS & AIE.

The remaining States are again being reminded to complete the formalities and submit proposals as part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) during the current year as EGS/AIE does not exist as a separate Scheme from the Tenth Plan onwards but as a component of SSA.

Recommendations/Observation

7.6 After the Sixth All India Educational Survey (1993), which indicated that there were nearly 1.8 lakh school-less habitations in the country, no such exercise has been undertaken. As a result, no current statistics are available regarding such school-less habitations. This shows lack of effective monitoring and implementation of the Scheme. The Committee fails to understand as to how the Department is implementing and monitoring the Scheme when it does not have the necessary statistics. The Committee has been given to understand that, at present, exercise of conducting such a survey is going on. The Committee would like to be apprised as to when the survey work was undertaken and the time schedule for its completion.

Action Taken

Independent of All India Educational Survey under SSA, habitation-based Surveys are being done. Also, household Surveys giving details of out-of-school children is a pre-requisite for any State for their

proposals for grants under SSA to be considered.

Further Comments of the Department

On a specific query, the Department replied that all the States/UTs except Goa, Manipur, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Delhi had completed the habitation surveys and these States/UTs were expected to complete the survey during that financial year.

MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

Recommendations/Observation

8.8 The Committee notes that the Operations Research Group, after evaluating the programme in ten States, has come to the conclusion that the Programme has a positive impact on attendance and retention of students in schools. The Committee also finds that a comparative study of Orissa and Tamil Nadu (where a cooked meal programme is in operation) and another study of HP and UP (where there is arrangement for distribution of foodgrains only) was organized by the Planning Commission. The reports conclude that a cooked meal programme is preferable not only from the health point of view but also in attracting children to school. The Committee is also of the view that only cooked food should be provided to the students.

Action Taken

The Department is in agreement with the view expressed by the Committee. The Department has been urging the states to ensure that a cooked meal is given.

Recommendations/Observation

8.10 The Committee has been given to understand that projected requirements for Tenth Plan are Rs. 14767.20 crores, out of which Rs. 2107.25 crores are proposed for 2002-03. This included conversion cost amounting to Rs. 942.00 crores. However, only Rs. 1175.00 crores have been allocated which would be sufficient only for cost of foodgrains and transportation charges.

Action Taken

8.10 The requirement of funds as projected in the Report of the Working Group on Elementary Education for the Tenth Plan was Rs. 10,536.25 crore for covering the programme upto primary level and Rs. 14,767.20 crore for covering upto upper primary level, including the children of EGS centres. The report recommended annual requirement of funds of Rs. 2107.25 crore for covering children upto primary level which included Rs. 942.65 crore as the Central share for meeting the conversion cost.

Considering the overall outlay made available for 2002-03 for the elementary education sector, Rs. 1175 crore has been allocated for the Scheme. An additional Amount of Rs. 500 crore has been allocated for mid-day meal scheme for Tenth Plan.

SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (SSA)

Recommendations/Observation

9.5 The Secretary in his presentation before the Committee stated that for the Tenth Plan, the Department had projected a requirement of Rs.32,500 crores before the Cabinet. The Working Group, however, recommended Rs.36,000/- crores against which the Planning Commission, at the discussion stage, agreed to Rs.32,000/- crores. The Tenth Plan is yet to be finalized. However, as per the Annual Plan for 2002-2003, which has been finalized, the Department has got only Rs.1512/- crores as against its requirement of Rs.7150 crores.

Action Taken

No comments.

Further Comments of the Department

On a query as to the reasons for lesser allocation of Rs. 1512 crores as against the requirement of Rs. 7150 crores for the annual plan 2002-2003, the Department replied that the Tenth Five Year Plan had since been finalized and a sum of Rs. 28750 crore had been allocated for Elementary Education. The annual plan allocation for 2002-2003 for Elementary Education was Rs. 4667 crore.

DISTRICT PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME (DPEP)

Recommendations/Observation

10.3 The Committee has been given to understand that a study to estimate the dropout rate on enrolment and repeaters for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was carried out for 102 DPEP districts of 13 DPEP States. The percentage of children who drop out between grade-I and the last grade of primary school was found to be less than 10 per cent in 13 per cent of districts and less than 20% in one third of the districts. Even though gender gap was reduced to less than 5 percent in 72 percent districts yet high dropout rates in a large number of districts is still a matter of great concern. In this respect, it has been informed to the Committee that decline in school-going population and migration of students to public schools are mainly responsible for decline in enrolment in class I under DPEP covered districts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. A study is being undertaken to find out the reasons for decline in enrolment. The Committee has been given to understand that this trend has been noticed in other States also. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that steps should be taken to find out the reasons for high dropouts in other DPEP States and effective measures should be taken to check the high dropout rate.

Action Taken

10.3 A study has been undertaken this year to find out the reasons of high dropout rate in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in which the dropout rate is very high. The study is in progress and the results are expected by December, 2002. Once the reasons for high dropouts are identified, additional steps would be taken to reduce the dropout further.

ADULT EDUCATION

Recommendations/Observation

12.3 Observing the functioning of the various schemes under Adult Education, the Committee expresses its serious concern. At the end of Ninth Plan, NLM expected to achieve around 70% literacy. However, as per Census 2001 literacy rate is 65.38% only. CAG report has also pointed about the mismanagement in inventory system i.e. infructuous expenditure to the tune of Rs.3, 84,095/- due to non-distribution of literacy kits by SRC, Bhubaneswar and non-payment of Employees Provident Fund arrears amounting to Rs. 5,30,848/- at Shramik Vidyapeeth, Hyderabad in 1998-99. The Committee also notes that as against the Ninth Plan allocation of Rs.630.39 crores, only Rs.517 crores could be spent on Adult Education upto 18th March 2002. As per the information available with the Committee, out of total 600 districts in the country, only 152 districts have been covered under the Continuing Education Programme, so far. The Committee observes that Rs.145.00 crores are proposed for 2002-2003, while total allocation for this programme for the entire Ninth Plan was Rs. 229.39 crores only. The Committee hopes that the Department will make concerted efforts for optimum utilization of allocated funds under the various components/projects of adult Education Programme. It also opines that the Department would take early steps to settle the audit objections and also evolve suitable mechanism to avoid such irregularities in future.

Action Taken

The projected achievement of NLM was estimated to be around 70% at the end of 9th Five Year Plan i.e. by March, 2002 on the basis of current projected rate of growth at 1.5% per year on the basis of survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. The NSSO Survey Report declared 62% literacy at the end of 1997.

State Resource Centres are expected to make available teaching-learning materials for ongoing programme of Total Literacy Campaigns and as such they have also to maintain stock of literacy kits to meet any emergent requirements of the district. However, the books lying with SRC, Bhubneswar were printed as per requisition by different Zilla Saksharata Samities and 16 NGOs implementing Total Literacy Campaigns. The requisitions were received from Zilla Saksharata Samities Baudh and Rayagada for supply of books and all the literacy kits in question have been supplied. Thus, the expenditure on literacy kits in stock may not be termed as infructuous.

The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (previously called Shramik Vidyapeeth) Hyderabad has informed that Employees Provident Fund arrears amounting to Rs. 5,30,848/- have already been paid on the 20th November, 1998.

Against the 9th Plan allocations of Rs. 630.39 crores, Rs. 521.19 crores could be spent on Adult

Education by 31st March, 2002, which is 82.68% of the allocations.

The Continuing Education is taken up in phases in the districts where Total Literacy/ Post Literacy Programmes have been completed. The focus would be on Continuing Education in the coming years which explains the enhanced allocation for 2002-03 at Rs. 145 crore and Rs. 826 crore for 10th Plan as compared to the total allocation of Rs. 229.39 crores for the entire 9th Plan.

Efforts would be made for optimum utilization of allocated funds under various schemes of Adult Education. Steps are being taken to settle the audit objections early and evolve suitable mechanism to avoid such irregularities in future.

Further Comments of the Department

On a query about the steps being taken for ensuring optimum utilization of allocated funds under various schemes of Adult Education and steps being taken to evolve suitable mechanism to avoid audit irregularities in future, the Committee has been informed that the Secretary, Department of Elementary Education & Literacy had taken a number of Zonal level meetings with Education Secretaries/ other concerned officers of various States to discuss problems being faced by them to ensure that the Zilla Saksharata Samities and other agencies implemented the literacy programmes in an efficient manner. Similarly, during the meetings of Project Approval Committees the relevant issues were discussed with Deputy Commissioners-cum-Chairmen, ZSSs and strategies were suggested to overcome the problems. In addition, periodical meetings were also taken by the Secretary, Department of Elementary Education & Literacy/DG(NLM) to review the pace of expenditure and also the status of implementation of various schemes.

The Department was impressing upon the implementing agencies, time and again, that financial norms prescribed for various items of expenditure alongwith terms and conditions were strictly adhered to and any expenditure exceeding the ceilings without adequate justification would not be allowed.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

LITERACY RATES

Recommendations/Observation

3.2 Similarly, as per NSSO 55th round (1999-2000), 53% of SCs are literate as compared to 37.41% in the 1991 Census, 49% of STs are literate as compared to 29.60% in the 1991 Census. This has shown a somewhat positive trend. However, gender difference in Elementary Education, urban-rural gap and low literacy among SCs/STs and among educational minorities still remain a cause of concern for the Committee. Effective monitoring and implementation with a missionary zeal is, therefore, needed.

Action Taken

The focus continues to be on women, scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes, educational minorities under the Schemes of National Literacy Mission.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee feels that under the National Literacy Mission, situation has not changed much and there is lot more to be done in this regard. Despite the efforts made by the Government, urban-rural gap, gender difference and low literacy among the weaker sections of the society are well evident.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

Recommendations/Observation

4.4 The Committee is of the view that successful implementation of a scheme can be undertaken with the partnership of both the Central Government and State Governments/UTs. If the funds are released by the Centre to the States/UTs and if the same are not utilized/spent by them, utilization certificates are not furnished, the Centre would have perhaps no option but to withhold further release, resulting in under- utilization of funds. However, in certain cases, the reason behind non-utilization of funds by some States/UTs may be genuine, particularly financial crunch. In that case, the Committee feels that the Department will have to give a thought to it and find some way out for such States/UTs.

Action Taken

Non-utilization of funds by States /UTs, form a part of regular reviewing exercise and persuasive efforts have resulted in considerable utilization by States/UTs. Currently, Education Secretary is reviewing the unspent balance available with the States by individually calling the State Education Secretaries. Proposals have been made to the States suggesting the ways of speedy utilization and removing of the bottlenecks.

Further Comments of the Department

In reply to a specific query regarding the kind of proposals that have been made to the States suggesting the ways of speedy utilization and removing of the bottlenecks and their responses thereto the Department replied that the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes were reviewed by Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy as well as by senior officers of the Bureau of Elementary Education with Education Secretaries of States and State Project Directors by visiting the States or inviting them in the Ministry. This provides an opportunity to gauge the status of implementation, implementing strategy, etc. Suggestions were also provided for speedy utilization of the funds released to the States, if utilization was slow. Meetings, conferences, workshops also provided an opportunity to exchange views / experience between Centre and State and among States.

Technical support from NIEPA and NCERT were also provided for developing a comprehensive District Elementary Education Plan (DEEP) (Both Annual Plan and Perspective Plans).

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is of the view that the measures taken by the Department are routine exercises which have been going on for a long time without any fruitful results, as far as fund utilisation is concerned. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should evolve suitable

mechanisms /procedures to address this issue taking into consideration the difficulties of the States/UTs in this regard.

MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

Recommendations/Observation

8.12 The Committee had earlier been given to understand that the States, due to their poor financial condition, are not in a position to bear the conversion cost and hence cooked food is not supplied by most of them. The Committee finds that implication of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order is that States which currently do not have a cooked meal programme are seeking additional assistance towards conversion costs. The Committee fails to understand, in view of provision of only Rs. 1175.00 crores for 2002-03, sufficient only for cost of foodgrains and transportation charges, how States will be in a position to implement the Supreme Court Orders. Now, with the recent order of the Supreme Court, for distribution of only cooked meal, the Central Government will have to come to the rescue of the State Governments though the Committee had been recommending to this effect from the very beginning. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry should apprise the Committee, within a period of three months, the manner in which it intends to implement the Supreme Court (SC) directive.

Action Taken

The Department is in agreement with the observation of the Committee. The Department had proposed to Ministry of Finance to augment the allocation but the same has not received favourable response. Similarly, Planning Commission has also not considered Department's request for higher allocation. There is also no opportunity for the Department to re-appropriate/re-allocate funds from within its own allocated budget.

States/UTs, therefore, have been already informed that under the Scheme the cost of conversion of foodgrains into a cooked meal is to be borne by the States/Implementing Agencies. It is submitted that the Department would continue to support States/UTs with supply of foodgrains free of cost and admissible transportation charges. The conversion of foodgrains into cooked meals as per the specifications of the Hon'ble Supreme Court would be the responsibility of the Implementing Agencies. The Department would, however, be willing to support States with any other permissible item of expenditure provided adequate funds are made available for the same.

Further Comments of the Department

To a specific query regarding the steps taken to implement the Supreme Court's order dated 28.11.2001 the Department replied that it had convened a meeting of the Education Secretaries/Nodal Officers of all States/UTs dealing with the programme to review the implementation of the programme. They were requested to implement the programme as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Ministry was committed to ensure supply foodgrains free of cost and admissible transportation charges to the implementing agencies. In addition, the Ministry of Rural development had also agreed to construct kitchen shed under their programme.

In addition to existing States namely Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa (rural areas of KBK districts & Boudh district and ITDA blocks), Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh (Tribal areas), Karnataka (7 educationally backward districts), Delhi (ready to eat food) and Pondicherry, the State of Rajasthan, and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu have also started providing cooked meal. Chattisgarh, which was earlier implementing a cooked meal programme in tribal blocks, have now extended the said programme across the State.

The other States/UTs have not yet introduced a cooked meal programme mainly due to financial constraints. Ministry had also taken up the matter with Ministry of Finance for additional funds to implement a meal programme across the country with a proposal to bear the conversion cost with States/UTs on a 50:50 basis, but the same was not agreed to.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee feels that it is perhaps due to resource- crunch, the Department was not able to get additional allocation from the Ministry of Finance as recommended by it. The Committee is not inclined to agree that defaulting States were not able to implement cooked meal programme due to financial constraints particularly in States like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana etc. In view of

the fact that it is a very good scheme and Hon'ble Supreme Court has also ordered to implement it, the Committee feels that the Department may consider of implementing the programme with the cooperation of Panchayats.

Recommendations/Observation

9.8 The Committee observes that the funding pattern under SSA would be 75:25 in the Tenth Plan and 50:50 thereafter, between the Centre and the States. The Committee has been given to understand that this pattern was fixed through a consultative process after extensive discussion with the States. A large number of States have submitted their District Elementary Education Plans which indicates that these States have implicitly agreed to the above sharing pattern. The Committee, however, is not inclined to agree with the contention of the Department that States will be better placed under SSA as compared to Operation Blackboard under which liability of teachers salary was transferred to State Govt at the end of the Plan period. This is evident from the fact that already three States- UP, Assam and Tripura have requested reconsideration of the sharing pattern. The Committee feels that more such requests are bound to follow. The Committee, therefore, recommends that viability of this funding pattern may again be reviewed, particularly in the case of non-performing States, as observed during the implementation of Operation Blackboard.

Action Taken

This is the first year of the Tenth Plan. Hence, it would be too early to review the sharing pattern.

Further Comments of the Department

In reply to a specific query whether there have been any request from the states other than UP, Assam and Tripura for reconsideration of the funding pattern of SSA, and whether there has been any reconsideration on this issue, the Department replied that no other State has requested for reconsideration of the funding pattern and that no reconsideration on the funding pattern had been done.

Comments of the Committee

While the Committee agrees with the Department that it was too early to review the funding-pattern under SSA during the first year itself, the Committee feels that the Department should analyse the reasons on the basis of which some States had requested reconsideration of the pattern to allay their fears, in the beginning itself, so as to ensure a smooth implementation of SSA, particularly when we have had a bad experience of its precursor, the Operation Blackboard.

SHIKSHA KARMI PROJECT (SKP)

Recommendations/Observation

11.4 The Committee is, however, constrained to note that during 2001-2002, BE allocation of Rs. 30.00 crores had to be reduced to Rs. 10.00 crores at the RE stage. On a specific query in this regard, the Department has explained that the Project was having an unspent balance of Rs. 12.23 crores as on 1.4.01 to be utilized during 2001-2002. The State Government of Rajasthan was also not in a position to allocate more plan funds to the Project during the year. The Committee would like to point out that this problem seems to have been there during the entire Ninth Plan period. Against a physical target of coverage of 2,81,525 children during Ninth Plan, achievement level is 2,17,126 children. Similarly, against a provision of Rs. 80.37 crores during this period, expenditure reported is only Rs. 53.74 crores. The Committee is aware that in view of post Pokhran developments, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) declined to support the Project. As a result, there was a break from 1st July, 1998 to 30th June, 1999. The Committee, would, however, like to emphasise that there is scope for more effective implementation of the Programme, impressive achievements notwithstanding.

Action Taken

The project is run in the State of Rajasthan Greater emphasis had been given by the State Government on the expansion of State funded Rajiv Gandhi Pathshalas, thereby limiting the expansion of Shiksha Karmi Day schools. However, in the year 2002-03, under the Shiksha Karmi Project, approx. 1021 new schools are proposed to be opened. This will lead to an increase in project expenditure.

Further Comments of the Department

On a query as to how many schools (out of proposed 1021) have been opened so far and whether the Department intends to adopt Shiksha Karmi Project for other States also, the Committee was informed that the Shiksha Karmi Project had opened 916 new primary schools in remote and backward areas of the State upto September 2002, during 2002-2003. The cost of running the Shiksha Karmi Project in the State of Rajasthan was shared between the Department for International Development (DFID), UK, and Government of Rajasthan in the ratio of 50:50. At present, the Government does not have any proposal to extend the programme to other States

Comments of the Committee

The Committee observes that the Department should reconsider its decision not to extend the Shiksha Karmi Projects to other States. The Committee feels that instead of taking a blanket decision, it should analyse the reasons and obstacles if any, remove them and consider extending the project to other States.

GENERAL OBSERVATION WITH REGARD TO DELAY IN FURNISHING PAPERS.

Recommendations/Observation

13. All papers pertaining to the Action Taken Note should be furnished to the Committee within the stipulated time. Every effort should be made to adhere to the deadline. In case, it is not feasible for the Department to furnish the papers within the deadline due to some genuine reason/unavoidable circumstances, specific permission of the Chairman/Committee should invariably be obtained in advance. The Committee has taken a serious note of the fact that the Action Taken Note for the Department, which should have been furnished within three months of the presentation of the relevant Report, was received by it after 7-8 months and that too after repeated verbal reminders from the Secretariat. The Committee hopes that the Department will be guided by the above procedure in future

Action Taken

Further Comments of the Department

In response to a specific query as to why the Department has not taken the above recommendation seriously as there has again been delay in furnishing the ATN on the 119th report the Department replied that the Action Taken Note on the 119th Report of the Committee on HRD on the Demands for Grants 2002-2003 in respect of Department of Elementary Education & Literacy was prepared and sent to Coordination Division of the Ministry. The Coordination Division was compiling the report in respect of both the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy and Department of Secondary and Higher Education of MHRD. Some information was awaited from States and the report was accordingly further updated and sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat in October, 2002.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee is not convinced with the reply of the Department as it feels that its recommendation was quite clear and precise and allowed the Department to approach it for extension of time, if the Department was not sure that the information cannot be furnished within the stipulated time. The Department has failed to do so. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation for timely submission of papers/information, so that, it could discharge its responsibility properly.

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

NIL

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that under the National Literacy Mission, situation has not changed much and there is lot more to be done in this regard. Despite the efforts made by the Government, urban-rural gap, gender difference and low literacy among the weaker sections of the society are well evident. (Para 3.2)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is of the view that the measures taken by the Department are routine exercises which have been going on for a long time without any fruitful results, as far as fund utilisation is concerned. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should evolve suitable mechanisms /procedures to address this issue taking into consideration the difficulties of the States/UTs in this regard. (Para 4.4)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that it is perhaps due to resource- crunch, the Department was not able to get additional allocation from the Ministry of Finance as recommended by it. The Committee is not inclined to agree that defaulting States were not able to implement cooked meal programme due to financial constraints particularly in States like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana etc. In view of the fact that it is a very good scheme and Hon'ble Supreme Court has also ordered to implement it, the Committee feels that the Department may consider of implementing the programme with the cooperation of Panchayats. (Para 8.12)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

While the Committee agrees with the Department that it was too early to review the funding-pattern under SSA during the first year itself, the Committee feels that the Department should analyse the reasons on the basis of which some States had requested reconsideration of the pattern to allay their fears, in the beginning itself, so as to ensure a smooth implementation of SSA, particularly when we have had a bad experience of its precursor, the Operation Blackboard.(Para 9.8)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee observes that the Department should reconsider its decision not to extend the Shiksha Karmi Projects to other States. The Committee feels that instead of taking a blanket decision, it should analyse the reasons and obstacles if any, remove them and consider extending the project to other States. (Para 11.4)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is not convinced with the reply of the Department as it feels that its recommendation was quite clear and precise and allowed the Department to approach it for extension of time, if the Department was not sure that the information cannot be furnished within the stipulated time. The Department has failed to do so. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation for timely submission of papers/information, so that, it could discharge its responsibility properly. (Para 13)

MINUTES

FIRST MEETING

The Committee met at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, the 8th January, 2003 in Committee Room No. 53, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

Shri Eduardo Faleiro ——— *in the Chair*

MEMBERS

RAJYA SABHA

Shri Bachani Lekhraj

Shri Lalmingliana

Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani

Prof. R.B.S. Varma

LOK SABHA

Shri Kirti Jha Azad

Shri G. S. Basavaraj

Shri Ram Rati Bind

Shri Baliram Kashyap

Shri Brij Lal Khabri

Shri Y.G. Mahajan

Dr. Manda Jagannath

Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja

Dr. N. Venkataswamy

Shri Devendra Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shri Satish Kumar, Additional Secretary

Shri C.B. Rai, Under Secretary

Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer

Smt. Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

Shri Eduardo Faleiro, M.P. Rajya Sabha chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman. To begin with, the Committee took up for consideration the Quarterly Report for the first two quarters on physical and financial achievements of Department of Health. The Committee noted underutilization of funds provided under various schemes/ programmes. However, after some discussion, the Committee decided to defer consideration of Quarterly Reports in respect of all the Departments/ Ministries within its purview till the same are received for the third quarter also as they are also due.

The Committee, then, took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 117th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants for 2002-2003 relating to Department. of Family Welfare and identified the following points/issues for clarifications from the Department:

Variations in the cases of No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) during 2001-2002;

Low Male participation in Family Planning;

Proposal of the Government, if any, to introduce the concept of incentives and disincentives with respect to Family Planning on the lines of practice presently being followed in China; and

Remedial steps to be taken in respect of the states which are lagging behind in implementation of Family Planning programmes.

The Committee, then, took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 118th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants for 2002-2003 relating to Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy and identified the following points/issues for clarifications from the Department:

Underutilization grant-in-aid to state Pharmacies and Laboratories by the states of Rajasthan, UttarPradesh, Uttranchal, Orissa, West Bengal, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgad, and Jammu & Kashmir and non-fulfillment of code formalities by them.

Non-filling of posts in the Department of ISM&H.

Non-increase in bed capacity in National Institute of Homoeopathy.

The Committee, then, took-up for consideration the Action Taken Note on 119th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants for 2002-2003 relating to Department of Elementary Education and Literacy and identified the following points/issues for clarifications from the Department:

Accuracy of the NSSO survey with regard to increase in literacy rate among SCs/STs and educational minorities in 1999-2000 as compared to 1991.

Efficacy of the present mechanism to check diversion of funds released by Central Govt. for a particular scheme/programme and modifications, if any, required in it.

Proposal of the Government, if any, for qualitative and quantitative improvement in the Mid Day Meal Scheme and the Department's plan to implement the Judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard.

Assessment/study, if any, made with regard to the drop-out rate of students at a particular place prior to the implementation of DPEP and after its implementation.

Association of local MPs in the construction of DPEP school buildings.

4. The Committee, then, adjourned at 12.30 P.M. for lunch and then again adjourned at 4.30 P.M. to meet again at 11 A.M. on Thursday, the 9th January, 2003.

XI
ELEVENTH MEETING

The Committee met at 3.00 P.M. on Monday, the 7th April, 2003 in Committee Room 'A', First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

1. Dr. Manda Jagannath ——— *in the Chair*

MEMBERS

RAJYA SABHA

Dr. Akhilesh Das
Shri B.P. Apte
Shri Bachani Lekhraj
Prof. R.B.S. Varma
Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik
Shri Lalhmingliana
Smt. Chandra Kala Pandey
Smt. Vanga Geetha

LOK SABHA

Shri Ram Rati Bind
Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria
Shri Baliram Kashyap
Shri A.F. Golam Osmani
Shri S.B.P.B.K.Satyanarayana Rao
Dr. N. Venkataswamy
SECRETARIAT
Shri H.K. Chanana, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Joint Director
Shri C.B. Rai, Under Secretary
Shri Vimal Kumar, Committee Officer
Smt. Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

2. In the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Manda Jagannath was voted to the Chair.

3. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Committee. The Committee, then, took up consideration of the following Reports:

One Hundred twenty-fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Health;

One Hundred twenty-sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred seventeenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Family Welfare;

One Hundred twenty-seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred eighteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

One Hundred twenty-eighth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred-nineteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy;

One Hundred twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred twentieth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Secondary and Higher Education;

One Hundred thirtieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations

contained in One Hundred twenty-first Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Department of Women and Child Development;

One Hundred thirty-first Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred twenty-second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) relating to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports;

One Hundred thirty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred fourteenth Report of the Committee on Implementation of Elementary Education Schemes;

One Hundred thirty-third Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred twelfth Report of the Committee on Medical Education; and

One Hundred thirty-fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in One Hundred thirteenth Report of the Committee on Technical Education.

4. After some discussion, the Committee adopted the above reports. The Committee also decided that these Report may be presented to Rajya Sabha and /laid in Lok Sabha on the 10th April, 2003. The Committee, in this connection, authorized the Chairman of the Committee and in his absence Prof. R.B.S. Varma and Smt. Chandra Kala Pandey to present the Reports in the Rajya Sabha and Dr. M. Jagannath and in his absence Shri Ramdas Rupala Gavit to lay the same in the Lok Sabha.

5. The Committee then adjourned at 3.30 P.M.
