

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

HUNDRED SEVENTY - FIRST REPORT
ON

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS
CONTAINED IN THE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHTH REPORT ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
2005-2006 (DEMAND NO. 57) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION &
LITERACY
(MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)**

**(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 16th DECEMBER, 2005)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 16th DECEMBER, 2005)**

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
DECEMBER, 2005/AGRAHAYANA, 1927 (SAKA)

C O N T E N T S

1. [COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE](#)
2. [PREFACE](#)
3. [REPORT](#)
[CHAPTER I Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government](#)
[CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies](#)
[CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee](#)
[CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final Replies of the Government are still awaited](#)
4. [Observation and Recommendation](#)
5. [MINUTES](#)
6. ANNEXURE

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(2005-2006)**

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi ¾ *Chairman*

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

2. Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah
3. *Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik
4. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
5. **Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey
6. ^ Shrimati Brinda Karat
7. Shri S. Anbalagan
8. Shri Uday Pratap Singh
9. Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani
10. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

11. Shri Anil Dhirubhai Ambani

LOK SABHA

12. Shri Basudeb Barman
13. Shri Hari Sinh Chavda
14. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
15. Shri R. L. Jalappa
16. Shri Ramswarup Koli
17. Shri Manjunath Kunnur
18. Shri Y.G. Mahajan
19. Shri Manoj Kumar
20. Shri Babu Lal Marandi
21. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
22. Shri Krishna Murari Moghe
23. Mohd. Mukim
24. Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Rengepatil
25. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
26. Shri M. Rajamohan Reddy
27. Shri Tufani Saroj
28. Smt. P. Satheedevi
29. Shri A.R. Shaheen
30. Smt. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar
31. Shri K. Virupaxappa
32. Shri Devendra Singh Yadav

*nominated *w.e.f.* 23.8.2005

** Ceased to be a member of the Committee on expiry of her term in Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 18th August, , 2005

^nominated *w.e.f.* 25.9.2005

SECRETARIAT

Shri N.C. Joshi, Additional Secretary
Smt. Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Director
Shri J. Sundriyal, Under Secretary
Shri Swarabji B., 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, do hereby present this Hundred Seventy First Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Hundred Fifty Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (Demand No.57) of the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2005-2006.

2. The Hundred Fifty Eighth 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 21st April, 2005. Replies of the Government to the recommendations/observations contained in the Report, were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on the 14th December, 2005.

3. The Committee considered the Draft Report and adopted the same in its meeting held on 14th December, 2005.

NEW DELHI;

December 14, 2005
Agrahayana 23, 1927, (Saka)

VAYALAR RAVI

Chairman,
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on

REPORT

The Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in its One Hundred-Fifty Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (Demand No.57) of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2005-2006.

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:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: 1.1, 1.4, 2.15, 2.17, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, 2.25, 2.27, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 5.2, 6.2, 6.5, 6.6, 8.4, 8.5, 9.3, 9.4, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6.

(Chapter I) Total – 31

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

2.7, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.14, 2.22, 2.23, 2.24, 2.26, 2.28, 4.5, 4.6, 5.7, 5.8, 6.3, 7.5, 7.6, 8.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9.

(Chapter II) Total – 21

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

2.5, 2.6, 2.12, 2.16, 2.18, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 6.7, 7.3, 7.4, 9.5, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.10.

(Chapter-III) Total - 16

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

(Chapter – IV) Total - Nil

CHAPTER-I**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT****RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS****I BUDGETARY ALLOCATION**

1.1 The Committee notes that Plan allocation of Rs. 6000.00 crore made in BE 2004-05 for the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy was increased to Rs. 8000.00 crore at the RE stage. It has been further enhanced to Rs. 12531.76 crore in BE 2005-06. The Committee is happy to learn that about 98 percent of this fund had been utilized till 30 March, 2005 under 'Elementary Education'. Under the head 'Adult Education' the performance of the Department is not equally impressive as only 77.95% of allocated funds were utilized till 18.3.05. The Committee is, however, surprised to note that utilisation under Adult Education jumped to 92 per cent in a span of just 13 days, i.e., between 18 and 30 March, 2005.

ACTION TAKEN

It is correct that the utilization of funds in Adult Education picked up in the later half of November, 2005 and more than 94.59% of the grant was utilized by 31.3.2005. The reasons for increase in expenditure during this period are as follows:-

(i) The last meeting of Project Approval Committee of NLMA was held on 31.1.2005. Hence, the grant to such districts whose proposals were approved by the PAC on 31.1.2005 could only be released in March.

(ii) Proposals for release of grant are processed only after settlement of accounts in respect of earlier grant. In cases where Audited Accounts furnished by districts were not complete, clarifications were sought from the districts. Release of further grants was processed after the requisite information was received from the districts.

(iii) Special efforts of the districts and State Literacy Mission Authorities/State Governments in the month of March for submission of required documents/ information to NLM also resulted in higher release of grants in the month of March.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

1.4 The Committee is happy to note that elementary education had been accorded high priority, which is reflected in its allocations for the year 2005-06. The Committee is of the opinion that since the Department has been given adequate funds specially from the 'Education Cess' collected from the tax-payers of the nation, it is the responsibility of the Department to ensure that the programmes/schemes, especially the SSA and MDM, were implemented in the right earnest, with utmost sincerity and above all with a missionary zeal. The Committee calls upon the Department to take every possible step for the optimum and judicious utilisation of the enhanced allocation in 2005-06.

ACTION TAKEN

The Department has taken note of the Committee's concern regarding effective steps for optimum and judicious utilization of enhanced allocation and will make all possible efforts on that behalf.

II SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.15 The Committee also observes that although 1,09,642 new schools have been opened, only 17,454 new school buildings have been constructed so far. Besides opening of new schools, another component under SSA is strengthening of existing school infrastructure through provision of additional class rooms. Committee's attention has been drawn to the findings of the 7th All India Educational Survey conducted by NCERT in all the 35 States/UTs consisting of 599 districts as on 30.9.2002. Out of 6,513,82 primary schools as many as 17,777 schools were functioning without building and 27,898 schools were in *kachcha* building. The Committee feels that things would not have improved since then. The Committee wonders whether there exists any provision for utilization of SSA funds for strengthening of existing school buildings. If not, feasibility of utilisation of SSA funds for this purpose could be explored. Participation of community should also be encouraged in providing various facilities such as more class room, toilets, drinking water etc. in the schools.

ACTION TAKEN

In general the new schools are approved and opened in any community building. Once the school is opened by the State, the process for selection of site and planning of school building starts. Till March 2005, 42374 new school buildings have been constructed and the construction of 34968 new school buildings is in progress under SSA. In addition to these school buildings, 83079 additional classrooms (ACR) have been constructed and 60279 ACRs are in progress, which will strengthen the existing school infrastructure.

As per the Framework for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the participation of the Community in all civil work activities is mandatory in order to ensure a sense of ownership and a departure from contractor driven approaches. Under the SSA programme, School Management Committees / Village Education Committees / Gram Panchayat Committees on education carry out the civil works.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.17 The Committee was informed that targets for the 2005-06 were expected to be finalized during the first quarter of the 2005-06 only, as the appraisals of district-wise annual work plans were yet to be received from the State/UTs. The Committee is at a loss to see that despite quantum jump in the allocation of funds and good utilization shown thereof, targets fixed were not being achieved. So much so, no targets could be fixed for the year 2005-06 till now and the same were not expected before the end of first quarter of 2005. It is strange that the financial year has begun and we are yet to have the targets fixed. The Committee does not appreciate the idea of implementing such an important scheme without fixing the targets and a time-schedule. The Committee is of the view that the scheme should be implemented with the seriousness that it deserves.

ACTION TAKEN

The SSA programme enshrines decentralized planning. Thus all districts in country draw up their Annual Work Plans & Budgets (AWP&Bs) and submit them through State SSA programmes to Govt. of India, for each financial year.

The Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Govt. of India after receiving the Parliamentary approval for the budget of SSA in a financial year, considers the AWP&Bs of all States/districts within the first quarter of the year through its Project Approval Board (PAB). The PAB examines the State/District AWP&Bs in a transparent dialogue with the State Govts./SSA programmes and other related Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India, like Finance, Planning Commission, Tribal Welfare, Labor etc., and finally approves the AWP&B of the State/UT. This process is completed in the first quarter

of each financial year. Only then the clearly agreed targets of State/UT programmes are crystallized.

The Annual Work Plan & Budgets for the year 2005-06 in respect of almost all the States/UTs have been approved. Furthermore, by 12th September 2005, 55% of Central Government Budget for SSA had been released to the States/UTs. A copy of the targets for 2005-06 are at **Annexure - IV**.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.19 The Committee is of the view that data brought out in the Report weaknesses in the implementation of SSA. Based on the findings, State specific weak areas can be identified and corrective measures can be easily initiated. Only effort required would be constant monitoring by Centre/State in active co-ordination with implementing agencies and local community. The Committee would like to know the follow up action taken, if any, in this regard.

ACTION TAKEN

The MHRD has been monitoring the physical & financial progress of the SSA through quarterly review meetings with Financial Controllers of the States. Quarterly progress of civil works is also monitored regularly to ascertain the weak areas and weak States. The Ministry has been also reviewing progress with State Project Directors and State Education Secretaries, regularly. Resource support is provided to the States by Govt. of India through national apex institutions like NCERT, NIEPA etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.20 Further, a cursory look at the summary of quarterly reports received from independent monitoring institutions during 2003-04 supplied to the Committee basically confirms the fears of the Committee. The Committee notes contradictions in the reports of progress made under SSA after a comparison between the official monitoring channels and the independent external audit organizations. While the official version indicates tremendous improvement, the independent agencies point out that there is still a significant difficulty in mainstreaming of children of minority communities, SC/ST and other backward communities and those living in urban slums. Assessment of quality of teaching-learning process is a cause for special concern for the Committee. Teacher absenteeism, lack of teachers and teacher training, need for strengthening DIETs are some of the problem areas cited. The handicaps suffered by the EGS Centres, poor progress of construction works, which is further marked by use of low quality material, lack of suitable school buildings and other facilities, electricity, boundary wall and furniture are the factors that have adversely affected the implementation of the SSA. Besides delay in release of matching share by State Governments, delay in flow of funds from State to district level and below pointed out in these reports has serious implications for the success of SSA.

ACTION TAKEN

Department of Elementary Education and Literacy is putting in place systems for independent feedback on SSA implementation. Monitoring Institutions' reports and concurrent financial reviews are providing such information. These systems are still nascent and more clarity and rigour in field assessments and quality of teaching-learning process are being attempted. The feedback has been shared with the States for corrective steps to be taken by them. States have responded in a responsible manner. For instance, one State introduced an electronic fund transfer system from State to sub-district level to quicken flow of funds while three other States have introduced external agencies for monitoring quality of civil works construction under SSA.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.21 The Committee was informed that as in August 2004, completion rate of new School buildings improved from 8.7% to 12.5%, while another 36% were under construction. Progress was being regularly monitored and pursued with State Governments. The Committee is not impressed with the pace of completion of new school buildings *i.e.* 8.7 to 12.5% as claimed by the Department. The Committee feels that this dismal rate of progress in the construction of school buildings amply indicates the low level of coordination between Central and State Government, and State Government and implementing agencies. The Committee is surprised to note that no information on the status of additional classrooms to be constructed has been given by the Department. The Committee emphasizes that the Department must take all necessary steps to expedite the construction so that the noble purpose envisaged in the SSA was not defeated.

ACTION TAKEN

The progress of completion rate of new school buildings has improved substantially from 12.5% as reported in

August 2004, to 48.9% for new primary schools and 58.3% for new upper primary schools as per progress report received from States for the period ending 31.3.2005. The information on status of additional classroom is as under:-

i	Cumulative target for additional classrooms (ACR)	172893
ii	Cumulative ACRs completed as on 31.3.2005	83079
iii	Cumulative ACRs in progress as on 31.3.2005	60279

The Government of India is taking the following steps to further improve the completion of Civil Works:-

- i) The States/UTs were made to commit time frames (latest by Dec., 2005) to complete pending civil works.
- ii) Quarterly Monitoring of Civil Works progress is done by Government of India.

In the quarterly meetings, capacity building of State programme officers in charge of civil works is also done to iron out any bottlenecks, hurdles in implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.25 The Committee welcomes the idea of providing computer education even in rural areas under SSA to bridge the existing digital divide. This capital-intensive scheme requires proper planning for providing necessary infrastructure and services in the schools in remote villages/clusters. The Committee would only hope that this Scheme also should not remain on paper only.

ACTION TAKEN

The SSA guidelines provide for Computer Aided Learning (CAL) at upper primary level under SSA under the Innovative Head by providing a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs per district per year. The objectives of CAL is to create computer awareness and to make teaching learning effective and interesting. It is a gradual approach and covers 7966 number of schools so far.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.27 The Committee finds that though the SSA aims at augmenting teacher's strength as well as their quality, position becomes grave in face of the fact that the NCTE is still in the process of according permission to increase the intake of DIETs upto 200 seats. The Department should complete the procedural formalities in this regard on urgent basis. The Committee also notes that the States like Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar and the UTs of Chandigarh and Daman and Diu are yet to release their matching share under SSA for 2004-05. All these developments must have created serious bottlenecks in recruitment of teachers in these States apart from causing other handicaps in the successful completion of the SSA. The Committee is also of the view that the Department exercise has failed to persuade the defaulting states to release their respective share.

ACTION TAKEN

Committee's observations in respect of enhancing seats of DIET's have been noted and necessary instructions have been issued to NCTE in this regard.

Assam, Meghalaya and Bihar have released the backlog of State share for 2004-05.

The bottlenecks in recruitment of teachers have been largely due to interventions of courts. In the cases of States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan court cases have been settled and teacher's recruitment improved considerably as is evident from the table below:

State	No. of teachers recruited
Bihar	50,000
Madhya Pradesh	45,298
Rajasthan	28,640

The Department of Elementary Education & Literacy has been bringing constant pressure on the State Governments/UTs to release their State shares. In the year 2005-06 the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy has strictly enforced State share responsibility on State Governments, by sanctioning Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2005-2006 based on the provisions made by the State Governments in their State budgets towards State share.

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III KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (KGBV)

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

3.3 A provision of Rs. 489 crores has been made for the Scheme during the Tenth Plan. The Committee notes that during the first two years of Tenth Plan, provision of Rs. 7.65 crores and Rs. 8.50 crores had to be reduced drastically at the RE stage and expenditure reported at the end of the year was nil. The main reason was the delay in the revision of the scheme. Revised guidelines could be disseminated to 21 eligible States only on 2nd August, 2004. The Committee has been informed that by 17th December, 2004, approvals for 525 KGBV schools had been accorded. As per the latest figures, 717 schools for 20 States have been approved. Allocation of Rs. 92.28 crores has been certified upto 4th March 2005. The Committee notes that maximum number of schools, 94, have been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh with funds approved for release being Rs. 18.23 crores. The Committee also observes that although 38 schools have been sanctioned for Bihar, 14 in J&K and 74 in Jharkhand, no funds have been approved so far. This clearly indicates State's inability in matching their share. The Committee, therefore, expresses its reservation over the pattern of financing under the Scheme in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States during the Tenth Five Year and 50:50 thereafter. Only two years are left of the Tenth Plan and not even a single school has become functional so far. In the circumstances, the Committee has, its own doubts about the achievement of the target of opening of 500 to 750 residential schools during the Tenth Plan. Our experience in other schemes shows that States' financial constraints find the burden of sharing even 50 percent of the expenditure quite heavy. The Committee would like the Department to have a re-look at this aspect in most practicable manner. The Committee finds it deplorable that this scheme meant for girls belonging to the disadvantaged section - SC/ST has not taken off so far. The Committee recommends that all the schools be made functional during the Tenth Plan itself.

ACTION TAKEN

The scheme of KGBV was finally approved by GOI in July, 2004. Guidelines for implementation of the scheme were issued on 2nd August, 2004 inviting the concerned States to submit their KGBV Plans. The design of the scheme means that only Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) as per criteria can be covered under the scheme. As per 1991 Census data only 21 states having eligible EBBs, were eligible.

Out of the Plan allocation of Rs.100.00 crores in BE 2004-05, the provision under budget head "2202" has been fully utilized during 2004-05 amounting to Rs. 90.00 crore. Of the Rs. 10.00 crore for NE Region under budget head "2552" fund were utilized for KGBV to the extent of Rs. 2.56 crore as only a very limited EBBs are eligible in NE. Thus there was maximum utilization of KGBV funds in 2004-05.

Due to late receipt of KGBV plans from Government of Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir and delays in furnishing of data on out of school girls from Jharkhand, the KGBV schools were sanctioned to these States only on 22nd February, 2005. An amount of Rs.4.00 lakhs each was released to Government of Bihar and Jharkhand and Rs.4.33 lakhs to J&K in the financial Year 2004-05 itself.

Government of India has obtained written commitments of State Governments for providing their respective matching State Share for KGBV Scheme.

All 750 KGBV Schools have been approved by Government of India and sanctions have been issued to all eligible 20 states.

A Statement indicating number of KGBV schools approved by Government of India and funds sanctioned State-wise is annexed as **Annexure-V**. State Government have assured that the KGBV schools as far as possible will be made functional in the current academic year itself. Government of India is also monitoring closely to ensure that all the 750 sanctioned KGBV schools are made fully functional during the 10th plan period.

The Planning Commission in its Mid-term Appraisal of the 10th Plan, has recommended merger of the KGBV scheme with SSA. The Department of Elementary Education & Literacy is in agreement with the proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

3.4 The Committee also takes note of the fact that initially the proposed schools shall be opened in rented or other available Government buildings. The Committee would like the Department to ensure that there is no laxity in the construction of school buildings and hostels within the scheduled time otherwise it will not take-off at all. The Committee also desires that the Department should provide heavy penalty clause in the contract for construction agencies. All the clearances required must also be obtained in time.

ACTION TAKEN

Instructions have been issued to the effect to the concerned State Governments vide this department's letter No.F.10-4/2005-EE.8 dated 23.6.2005 (**Copy as Annexure-VI**). GOI is monitoring the construction of these residential schools on a

regular basis.

IV MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.1 The Scheme covers children of primary stage (classes I to V) in Government, local body and government-aided schools as also children studying in Education (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) Centres. The Committee was informed that the scheme has benefited about 11 crore children in 2004-2005. It is expected that by January, 2005, almost all children of the country will be covered under the cooked Mid Day Meal.

ACTION TAKEN

Though all States were expected to universalize cooked Mid-Day Meal programme by January, 2005 but only 24 States and all 7 UTs have now confirmed of having done so. The remaining 4 States [Bihar, J&K, Punjab & West Bengal] have not yet confirmed the progress of universalization. Of these, West Bengal has covered cooked meal programme in all district except Kolkata city.

These States have been continuously requested to universalize the programme and inform the latest position. The matter has been taken up by Minister of HRD vide D.O. letter dated 17.6.05 with Chief Ministers & Governor of Bihar also.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.2 The Committee notes that in comparison to hundred percent utilisation in 2003-2004, the Department could manage to spend only Rs. 1562.70 crores against the allocation of Rs. 1675.00 crores till 30.3.2005 for the year 2004-2005. It is seven per cent point less than the previous year. Although the extent of under-utilization is not big, the Committee feels strongly about any under-utilisation of funds particularly for such an important scheme as MDM.

ACTION TAKEN

In 2004-05, the budget provision for Mid-Day Meal scheme was Rs. 1507.50 Crore [excluding lump sum provision of Rs. 167.50 Crore for NER]. Of this provision, savings amounting to Rs. 20.77 Crore occurred as mature proposals for reimbursement of transport subsidy were not received from States. The department shall make all efforts to ensure that funds approved for the scheme are not surrendered.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.3 The Committee is little baffled to note that while the number of children covered under the MDM scheme during Xth Plan had increased consistently from 10.36 crores in 2002-03 to 10.56 crore in 2003-04 to 10.88 crore in 2004-05, the allocation of foodgrains has declined from 2837467 MT to 2684067 MT to 2666922 MT respectively. How could there be a continuous decline in allocation of food grains when the enrolment figure is reportedly on the rise? Not only this, even the lifting of food grains has also shown continuous decline during the first three years of the Xth Plan from 2176830 MT to 2130652 MT to 152877 MT (upto 31.12.04).

4.4 This aspect was pointed out by the Committee in its 149th Report and reiterated in 156th Report also. It seems that Department could not take corrective measures in this regard. Such indifference, the Committee feels, does not augur well for the future of the MDM scheme. The Committee reiterates that the Department must take urgent measures to check this tendency.

ACTION TAKEN

(Para 4.3 & 4.4)

Under the pre-revised Mid-Day Meal scheme, foodgrains were allocated to States in the following manner:-

- (i) 100 gm. per child per school day (about 2-2.25 kg. Per month depending upon number of school days in a month) where there was cooked Mid-Day Meal programme, and
- (ii) 3 kg. per child per month where there was no provision for cooked meals to children.

Based on the nature of the programme run by States, allocation of foodgrains was accordingly made. With the revision of MDM Scheme in September, 2004, more & more States progressively began to provide cooked meals to eligible children for whom foodgrains was allocated @100 gm. per child per school day, and not 3 kg. per month. Allocation therefore had shown a declining trend. The situation will get stabilised from 2005-06 as all States have been allocated

foodgrains on the basis of school days in a year reported by them. During 2004-05 lifting was 2189188 MTs.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.7 Moreover, there are complaints of low quality of cereals being released by the FCI godowns. The quality of the meals being served is something the Committee is very concerned about. The Committee feels that the scheme has fallen short of its goal of providing meal of required quality with an eye on enhancing the nutritional status of the children. As per the guidelines, 100 gm. grain is to be given per child per day. Other requirement is that the meal should have 800 calorie and 8-12 gm. proteins. In view of mostly rice and wheat being provided, the Committee cannot say if 100 gm. of these cereals have the required nutritional value. Nutritional deficiency being what it is in rural areas, the Committee feels that giving additional items also, must be considered. It may be possible to do with the recent enhancement of financial assistance for mid-daymeals. Besides, enhancing the amount of Re. 1 per child per day, currently being provided, may also be considered. There are many ways of upgrading the quality and variety of the food being provided.

ACTION TAKEN

As per the revised guidelines of the Mid-Day Meal scheme, each eligible child has to be provided cooked meal of a minimum 300 calories and 8-12 gm. protein. As regards quality of foodgrains, it is submitted that FCI releases fair & average quality of foodgrains only, and States have been asked to undertake joint inspection of foodgrains to ensure the quality, before being lifted from FCI godowns.

In addition to free foodgrains, Central assistance to meet cooking cost is being provided from 1.9.04. From this and from their own contributions, States are expected to meet requirements for providing wholesome meals to children.

As suggested, the matter relating to enhancing existing cooking cost amount would be examined.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.8 There are a number of Ministries/Departments implementing other schemes for providing nutritious food to our children; still our children suffer from massive nutritional deficiency. Convergence and close coordination is required amongst all the agencies at the Centre and State level in this regard. Committee recommends that quality; hygiene and nutritional aspects of the meals served need to be strictly monitored and no leniency should be shown in the event of any lapse on these aspects.

ACTION TAKEN

4.8 Scheme for providing mid-day meal to children of Primary stage is being implemented by this department only. However, appropriate convergence with other schemes is being currently undertaken to improve the quality of the programme. As regards, monitoring of quality, hygiene and nutritional aspect of the meals, paras 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 and Annex-XII of the guidelines of NP-NSPE, 2004 meet the concerns expressed by the Committee [Copies of relevant paras and Annex XII is given at **Annexure-VII**].

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.9 The Committee notes that funds are available for construction of kitchen sheds in rural areas under Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and in urban areas under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) and Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), for creation of drinking water facility under SSA and Accelerated rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and *Swajaldhara* Programme of the Department of Drinking Water Supply, and for purchase of utensils under SSA for annual school grant of Rs. 2000/- per school. The Committee desires that the Department must ensure that the funds under various Centrally – assisted Schemes are released for MDM on time and also that every Village Education Committee (VEC) was aware about these provisions so that there was no delay or confusion in getting these facilities.

ACTION TAKEN

The States have been advised to dovetail funds under various Centrally Assisted Schemes for construction of kitchen sheds and creation of drinking water facility in primary schools involving Panchayats, Municipalities, VECs etc. Detailed guidelines have also been issued in this regard. Copy of the relevant extract of the guidelines enclosed as **Annexure-VIII**.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.10 The Committee is happy to note that seemingly an elaborate monitoring mechanism has been devised which provides for the establishment of Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (SMCs) at National, State, District and Block levels. SMC at national level has already been established and action to establish other SMCs is being taken by State Government. The Committee, in view of experience in past, has a word of caution in this regard. The Department will have to make extra efforts to ensure that State Governments do establish SMCs on priority basis. The Department would do better to remember that the responsibility to monitor the implementation of the Scheme should essentially lie with the Central Government. It is also true that States have to play crucial role in this scheme. Therefore, overall it should be a joint effort particularly in view of the 'Education Cess', being collected at national level, a big share of which has gone into financing the MDM Scheme.

ACTION TAKEN

While National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee has been already constituted vide Notification dated 20.12.04 read with Notification dated 31.12.04 (copy at **Annexure-IX**). States are in the process of establishing such Committees at State, District and Block level. The department will take all measures to ensure that the programme is monitored at all levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.11 Despite the problems/drawbacks noticed in implementing the MDM scheme, the Committee wants to put on record its appreciations for Department's efforts which has brought about some increase in the enrolment figure and the scheme is certainly bringing a difference on educational spectrum. However, the Committee's only fear is that with the rise in enrolment of students, strain on resources and infrastructure might also increase. The Committee cautions that the Department should take all measures to meet the situation which may arise in future.

ACTION TAKEN

Noted for compliance.

V. STRENGTHENING OF TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

5.2 The Committee notes the laudable aims of the programme not only for strengthening but also creating sound institutional infrastructure for both pre-service and in-service training of elementary as well as secondary school teachers in the country. This Committee in the past also has been expressing its concern about the poor performance of this scheme during the 9th Plan. The Committee notes that even during the 10th Plan, the programme does not appear to have taken off.

ACTION TAKEN

All efforts are being made for effective implementation of the Scheme under the 10th Plan. Once the revised scheme was approved on 6.11.2003, guidelines were circulated to States on 12.1.2004 to enable them to prepare their Perspective Plan and State Plan & Budget. On the basis of the same, 52 new DIETs and 10 CTEs/IASEs were approved 2004-05.

Regarding the financial progress, as against an outlay of Rs.207.00 Crores, Central assistance of Rs. 203.32 Crores was released to the States.

VI. DISTRICT PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME (DPEP)

6.2 The Committee was informed that the reviews and various evaluatory studies of the programme have shown significant increase in enrolment, improvement in learning achievement, reduction in repetition rates/drop-outs with increased community involvement, improvements in classroom processes, etc. The Committee does not agree with these at all because the facts in certain respects do not support these conclusions. Despite the increase in enrolments over the years, the average Student Class Ratio (SCR) for schools covered under DPEP has come down from nearly 50 in 1996-97 to 42 in 2002-2003. Also, the dropout rate of children between grade I to V, has been found to be between 10-20 per cent in one third of the districts covered under the programme. The Committee desires that the Department should look into the factors for dropouts and remedy the situation by making schools attractive to the child. The Committee is not ready to buy the off-repeated argument that poverty and illiteracy of the parents are the main factors for dissuading child from studies. In fact, The Committee is of the considered view that the poor and uneducated today, in fact, are more eager to send their children to schools.

ACTION TAKEN

The 21st independent Joint Review Mission (JRM) of DPEP observed that all States are making significant progress with regard to all children being enrolled in primary education. In all States significance reduction in the number of out of children have been noted by the Mission Members. The JRM further noted progress with regard to increase in enrollment in formal primary schools.

Various strategies are devised by the States to curb problem of dropouts. The teaching learning process is being made context specific suited for the local condition of the children. The children of disadvantage groups are also being provided free textbooks. Additional teachers are being provided to the schools to meet PTR ratio of 1:40 and strategy of multigrade teaching has been adopted by some of the States where pupil teacher ratio is high. A 20 days teacher training is given to upgrade skills of teacher annually. The physical environment of schools have been improved by providing drinking water and toilet facilities and also child centric activities. States are taking State specific measures to improve quality of education. Awareness campaigns are being undertaken to educate and motivate parents of the children to send their children in the schools. Mid-day Meal and Early Child Care & Education is also being taken up for discouraging dropout.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

6.5 The Committee is not in agreement with the conclusions of the assessing agencies about achievements of DPEP, which do not go with the ground realities in respect of various components of this programme. In view of the present coverage of DPEP and project period yet to be over, the Committee strongly feels that vigorous monitoring by independent teams should be undertaken by the Department. State data will not be sufficient in view of various education indicators for these DPEP covered districts. The Committee is also of the view that involvement of public representatives about the implementation of DPEP in a particular district will prove helpful in arriving at the right conclusion about the effectiveness of this programme.

ACTION TAKEN

1. The DPEP programme is reviewed twice a year by an independent mechanism called 'Joint Review Mission' (JRM). The JRM has visits States implementing DPEP twice a year and also studies the programme at the local level.
2. Under DPEP educational data is derived through the national computerized District Information System of Education (DISE) to set a reliable picture of progress of education indicators in the States.
3. In DPEP covered districts, Village Education Committee have representation from the local community leaders, teachers, parents, women and Panchayat Raj members. This committee is directly responsible for implementation of the programme at village level. Major chunk of DPEP funds are expended by this Committee. Similarly the Block/District Implementation Committees has representation of public leaders alongwith other stakeholders. At the State level each State /UT has a Governing Council which is headed by the Chief Minister of the State and an Executive Committee which includes representatives of teachers unions, NGO's, Educationists and other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

6.6 The Committee notes that most of the components of the DPEP are the same, which have been provided in the SSA also. The Committee feels that this aspect should have been seen while formulating/launching the SSA in the year 2001-2002 with a view to avoid overlapping in the objectives.

ACTION TAKEN

Presently DPEP Programme is being implemented only in 124 districts in 8 States covering only primary stage i.e. class I to class V. In these districts, the SSA provides for interventions at upper primary stage i.e. class VI to class VIII only. Thus there is no overlapping between the two programmes. When the DPEP programme comes to an end in these states, these activities are subsumed into the SSA programme.

VIII. ADULT EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

8.4 The Committee appreciates that allocation for Adult Education has been increased from Rs. 250 crore in BE 2004-2005 to Rs. 261 crore in BE 2005-2006, which is exclusive of the amount available for Adult Education for NE and Sikkim.

The Committee, however, believes that there should have been a little more allocation because we cannot afford to lose the pace for want of funds. Moreover, the expenditure under Total Literacy Campaigns and Operation Restoration has outrun the allocation or showed 100 per cent utilisation during the last two years. Also, the scheme of continuing Education is spreading its wing as an additional 55 districts are to be covered in 2005-06. In the light of these developments and the

proposed launching of the special literacy drive in 150 districts of the country, the Committee desires that Adult Education Schemes should be given the required funds.

ACTION TAKEN

In case of additional requirement of funds, Ministry of Finance will be requested at the time of finalization of the Revised Estimates 2005-06.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

8.5 The Committee, however, takes note of the under-utilisation of the allocated funds of Rs. 157.24 crore under the Scheme of Continuing Education as only Rs. 123.36 crore was spent till 21.3.2005. The Committee recommends that the Department must ensure that similar situation does not arise in future.

ACTION TAKEN

Under the Continuing Education Scheme, a total budget allocation of Rs.157.24 crore was made for 2004-05. Out of this, an amount of Rs.5.50 crore was for the North Eastern Region (NER) and Rs.151.74 crore was for the rest of the country. The entire amount of Rs. 151.74 crore was released till 31.3.2005. However, as against the provision of Rs.5.50 crore for NER, an amount of Rs.2.90 crore could only be released due to non-receipt of proposals from the NER. All efforts will be made for full utilization of budgetary allocation in future.

IX. JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

9.3 The Committee appreciates that more than 250 types of courses and activities are offered by JSS but the Committee expresses its concern over the fact that out of an allocation of Rs. 28.00 crores for 2004-05, a total of Rs. 21.87 crores only had been sanctioned till 28.2.2005. The Committee feels that the Department ought to have utilized the funds well in time than going for the last minute rush. It should be strictly avoided in future.

ACTION TAKEN

The observations of the Committee have been noted for compliance. As against the budget allocation of Rs.28 crores for 2004-05, a total grant of Rs.27.87 crore was released to the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) as of 31.3.2005. For timely utilization of the funds in future, action is being taken to release funds to the JSS at the earliest possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

9.4 The Committee notes that the allocation for 2005-06 has been enhanced to Rs. 39.55 crores. It desires that the Department ensure the proper and timely utilisation of the funds.

ACTION TAKEN

The enhanced allocation for 2005-06 is on account of increased number of JSS. At present, there are 158 JSS and the number is likely to increase as Planning Commission has already been requested to allot additional 40 slots for the remaining 2 years of the 10th Five Year Plan.

X. PROBLEM OF DROPOUTS

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.4 In the case of Mizoram, there is no decrease in the drop-out rate of 56.76 in 1991.92. The Committee views this with serious concern and feels that there has to be a specific intervention under SSA to monitor the drop-out rates in NE States.

ACTION TAKEN

The concern of the Committee is noted. Special attention is proposed to be given to assisting the North Eastern states to implement measures to reduce dropout rates, including improvement of quality of education.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.5 A study undertaken under the DPEP has highlighted that both home background and school-related factors are

responsible for children dropping out from school. The parents of dropouts, in general were poor and uneducated who could provide little help to child in studies. The prominent school related factors were shortage of teachers, their inability to provide remedial teaching, lack of facilities and incongenial atmosphere in schools that make schools unattractive to the children. The Committee finds it strange and paradoxical that objectives of all our schemes are removal of the same, which are also the factors responsible for dropouts. It is, in fact, a sad commentary on all our efforts/schemes meant for universalization of elementary education. In other words, there are no results commensurate with our resources invested for this purpose.

ACTION TAKEN

Under SSA a concerted effort is being made to provide adequate teachers, improve physical infrastructure of schools, provide remedial teaching to children whose performance level is not satisfactory and also to improve the classroom teaching process. Till date 7.53 lakh additional teachers have been sanctioned under SSA. 117174 new school building, 314779 additional classrooms, 151907 drinking water facilities and 222405 toilets have been sanctioned under SSA. About 25 lakh teachers receive training each year. The impact of these inputs on dropout is likely to be visible in the coming years. For addressing poverty and family background factors, Mid Day Meal, incentives like free textbooks and a host of interventions for out of school children are being implemented.

The trends in reduction of dropout rates for primary level for 2001-02 to 2002-03 show a decline of 4.1 percentage points. The decline in dropouts for girls, for the same period, show a reduction of 6 percentage points.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.6 Besides dropouts, the Committee notes that a large number of our children are still out of schools. It appears that we have not been able to bring the children of poor parents to schools, despite most of the Department's programmes on primary education having particular focus on children from disadvantaged sections of the society. Similarly, under SSA, strategies have been chalked out to educate first generation learners.

ACTION TAKEN

Compared to 3.20 crore out of school children in the country at the beginning of the SSA programme, the number of out of school children in March 2005 was estimated to be 1.04 crores.

CHAPTER-II

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

II. SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.7 With the enhancement in allocation, expenditure is also increasing. However, in the absence of information about actual utilisation figures, assessment about achievement level, both in the terms of physical and financial targets, cannot be made. It is also not clear whether the States are contributing their due under SSA. Availability of unspent balance with the States can be justified for one year. However, its continuance can only create doubts about the ability of the States to utilize the allocated funds. The Committee observes that there is another aspect of this situation. Under the present funding pattern, States are supposed to contribute 25% of central release. With the increase in Central funding, State share also becomes higher. It is not known whether the States are in a position to bear the additional burden, which would increase further after Tenth Plan. The Committee, therefore, is of the opinion that for real evaluation of all Schemes including SSA, it is very essential to have separate details about state share, utilisation and unspent balances. The Committee would like to be apprised about the utilisation of funds during the first three years of Tenth Plan.

ACTION TAKEN

The actual utilization figures for SSA in 2004-05 are given below:

Opening balance	Grants released by GOI	State Share released	Total	(Rs.in Crores) Expenditure	Exp. %
1055.68	5113.14	1754.64	7923.47	6640.46	83.81

It is further reiterated that utilization levels of SSA are showing a very positive trend, where States are being able to utilize allocated funds better with each year:-

(Rs. in Crores)

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Grant released by GOI	Expenditure (including GOI, State Share released & opening balance)	Grant released by GOI	Expenditure (including GOI, State Share released & opening balance)	Grant released by GOI	Expenditure (including GOI, State Share released & opening balance)
1558.28	1305.65	2698.38	3604.25	5113.14	6640.66

During 2004-05, States/UTs released 34% of Central releases as their State share. Most States have made adequate provision of State share for SSA in State Budgets during 2005-06.

As explained above at the end of each year some amount will always remain unspent for ongoing activities and cannot be avoided. This is not a cause for concern. The unspent balance at the end of 2004-05 was less than 20% of the total expenditure during that year.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.9 The Committee feels that SSA being an essential programme should run smoothly. The Government should ensure that the release of money to the States is not withheld for a long time. The Department must find some way out for this. The Committee has been given to understand that a proposal for change in the sharing arrangement between the Centre and the States has been sent to the Planning Commission for consideration. The Committee feels that this issue should be resolved at the earliest for better implementation of the programme.

ACTION TAKEN

The Planning Commission in the Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the X Plan have recommended continuing of the existing funding pattern of 75:25 between Centre and State till the end of SSA programme, even though it was envisaged that 50:50 funding pattern during XI Plan period. This should provide substantial relief to the States.

During 2005-06, the process of Annual Work Plan preparation, appraisal and approval in the Project Approval Board (PAB) was completed by May 2005. By 8.8.2005, 49% of GOI budget had already been released to States/UTs.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.10 The Committee is concerned about the status of SSA in Goa. Goa is at present outside the ambit of SSA. The Committee feels that Goa being presently under President's Rule, Central Government can play a pro-active role in the implementation of SSA in the State.

ACTION TAKEN

Goa has presented a Plan to participate in SSA from the year 2005-06. The Project Approval Board of GOI has approved on 25.7.2005 an amount of Rs.12.03 crores for the year 2005-06 for SSA Goa.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.11 The Committee also notes that States/UTs like Bihar, J&K, Sikkim, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry could not take the benefit of the funds released in March 2005 out of the additional corpus. Committee's attention has also been drawn by the trend of allocation and utilisation of funds under SSA by Delhi. Against an allocation of Rs. 1.61 crores in 2002-2003, expenditure was nil. In 2003-2004, although enhanced allocation of Rs. 19.59 crores was made, the NCT could utilize only Rs. 5.15 crores. In 2004-2005, again no allocation was made, and as on 31st December 2004, it showed an expenditure of Rs. 6.3 lakhs. The Committee also notes that small States like Manipur, Nagaland, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep have simply failed to utilize the funds allocated so far. The Committee, therefore, feels that there is an urgent need for ascertaining the problems/constraints being faced by them so that removal thereof enables them to take benefit of SSA.

ACTION TAKEN

The utilization of funds in Bihar (61.7%), Nagaland (90.5%) & J&K (81.6%) has improved significantly in 2004-05. Department of Elementary Education & Literacy is undertaking regular monitoring & review of pace of implementation of SSA in the States with unsatisfactory progress.

The NCT of Delhi was participating in a hesitating manner in the SSA programme and often did not utilize the funds allocated to it based on their own Annual Work Plan & Budget. However, with repeated inputs from the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy on the need to improve its quality of universal elementary education, the NCT of Delhi has finally in 2005-06 drawn up a work plan covering all components of SSA, for implementation.

In Manipur, the SSA programme only began in 2003-04[LOVEI]as there was a legal tussle on the setting up of the SSA Society in the State. Due to Government of India's interventions with the Chief Minister of Manipur and the Chief Secretary, Manipur, the matter was resolved and the first set of funds released to Manipur under SSA in end of 2003-04. In 2004-05 Manipur's SSA performance was able to pick up to 65% utilization.

The UTs of Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep took time to fully comprehend the SSA programme and set up the necessary administrative arrangements for SSA implementation. After considerable capacity building and orientation by the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Govt. of India, all UTs are now making progress under SSA in 2005-06.

Review meetings at the level of HRM, MOS & Secretary (EE&L) have been held for North Eastern States, Bihar, Jharkhand and Northern Region States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & J&K in the past six months to speed up SSA implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.14 The Committee was informed that another hurdle in recruiting teachers was that 'para-teachers' have gone to the Court. The Committee is of the opinion that instead of waiting for usual course of verdict by the Courts, Department should adopt a pro-active attitude and impress upon the Courts about the urgency and significance of the SSA.

ACTION TAKEN

In the case of the State of Bihar & Rajasthan, Court cases have been settled and teacher recruitment has improved considerably.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.22 The Committee notes that the shortcomings/hindrances as pointed out in quarterly reports of the independent agencies are not new ones. In fact, the Committee has been commenting on these aspects in past also. The Committee would again caution the Department for such lacunae and recommend that concrete efforts be made to remove the bottlenecks in case the goals of universal elementary education are to be achieved in time. Time has come to really act on field in active co-ordination with the implementing agencies, lest the flagship SSA scheme would remain on paper only.

ACTION TAKEN

The recommendation has been noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.23 The Committee is of the considered view that by paying the 'Education Cess' from their hard-earned income, every citizen would watch with concern the performance of this scheme. It, therefore, places greater responsibility on the Department as well as the State Governments for ensuring that the Abhiyan was taken up as a peoples' movement with the do or die spirit.

ACTION TAKEN

The recommendation has been noted for compliance.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.24 The Committee recognizes that primary education is a State subject and the State Governments are the principal implementing agency with regard to SSA. The Committee feels that the success of the Scheme, therefore, largely depends on the active participation of the States. However, the data indicate that the attitude of the State Governments has not been encouraging and in some cases like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam etc., it has been somewhat grossly indifferent. Such an approach has certainly blocked the much desired pace and momentum under SSA. The Committee would urge upon the State Governments to play a more responsible and pro-active role in successful implementation of the Abhiyan.

ACTION TAKEN

The views of the Hon'ble Committee have been noted and communicated to the States.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.26 In view of the proposal for providing schools in every village/cluster under the SSA, the Committee is of the opinion that it would be appropriate if atleast one school is developed as a model school in every Panchayat area so that others are

motivated to follow the suit.

ACTION TAKEN

The committee's suggestions are noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.28 9134 NGOs have been funded so far under the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education (EGS & AIE), a component of SSA. The Committee notes that maximum number of NGOs, i.e. 2711 are working in Maharashtra followed by 390 in Tamil Nadu. As per the information made available to the Committee, Rs. 38.45 crores have been granted to these NGOs during the last three years. The Centres being run under this component of SSA are meant to provide an alternative to normal schools. The Committee would like to have an idea about the work done by large number of NGOs in certain States.

ACTION TAKEN

Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education Scheme (EGS & AIE) is one of the important component of SSA, which aims to provide flexible alternative strategies for elementary education for the out-of-school children of disadvantaged section of society such as working children, street children etc.

Details of activities in which NGOs are involved in some of the States are as follows:

(i) Tamil Nadu

NGOs are associated in the areas of integrated education for the disabled, for running centers under Education Guarantee Scheme in school- less habitation; centers under Alternative/Innovative schemes for out of school children and under the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya for girl children.

(ii) Uttar Pradesh

NGOs are associated in running Residential Bridge Courses for out of school children particularly girls, Alternative and Innovative schemes for out of school children and Katurba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya for girl childrens.

(iii) Andhra Pradesh

NGOs are associated in running Residential Bridge Courses, for out of school children, centers for working children, centers for early childhood care, community mobilization and village campaign and Integrated Education of disabled children.

(iv) Delhi

NGOs are associated with running Alternative/Innovative Education centers for urban dropouts, working children, poor and deprived children and street children.

(v) Maharashtra

NGOs are associated in Alternative and Innovative centers for out of school children, in running Education Guarantee Scheme centres in school less habitations, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya for Girl children, imparting training in inclusive education and girls education and in National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level.

IV. MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.5 The Committee is happy to note that the remaining five states, viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, J&K and Goa also have since decided to provide complete cooked meal programme. The Committee feels that since these States were unable to universalize cooked meal and have decided to do it only recently, they might not be able to sustain and continue their efforts. The Department should, therefore, pay special attention on these States to facilitate implementation of the MDM by them.

ACTION TAKEN

Noted for compliance. In fact, Department has been continuously interacting with these States to alleviate problems relating to programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

4.6 The Committee is of the view that transportation of cereals from the FCI godowns is still a major problem in smooth implementation of the Scheme. The Committee has been informed that due to shortage of Plan allocation at the end of Ninth Plan, there were unsettled claims of about Rs. 435 crores due to FCI, which had to be carried over to the Tenth Plan. Only

two years are left for the Tenth Planto be over. The Committee would like to emphasise that the Department will have to take corrective measures so that lifting of grains is not affected.

ACTION TAKEN

Noted for compliance. Raising of bills by FCI and its payment is a continuous process. All efforts are being made to liquidate arrears of FCI.

V STRENGTHENING OF TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

5.7 The Committee has been informed that dispensing with the requirement of NOC for B.Ed courses by NCTE has been done with a view to meet additional requirement of trained teachers at elementary level in the context of SSA. The Committee understands that NCTE has been requested to furnish state-wise details about the number of teacher-training colleges set up during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. The Committee may be apprised about the same alongwith the functional status of such colleges.

ACTION TAKEN

5.7 State-wise details about the number of teacher training institutions recognised during 2003-04 and 2004-05 is at Annexure- X.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

5.8 The Committee feels that since trained teachers are indispensable for the training of young minds, the Department must take all steps to persuade those States, who have failed to initiate appropriate reforms for making themselves eligible for central funding. In fact, the Department needs to play a more pro-active role by facilitating the States and other agencies to come forward with their plans.

ACTION TAKEN

5.8 State Governments are being constantly requested and reminded to send their perspective plan and State Plan & Budget. In the case of those States whose Plans are found deficient, Resource Personnel are being deputed to help such States to improve their Plans.

VI. DISTRICT PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME (DPEP)

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

6.3 As regards fiscal performance, the Committee notes that out of the total release of Rs. 777.61 crores in 2003-2004, Rs. 693.16 crores only have been utilized. The Committee further notes that the utilization of funds by the States particularly Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa, as per the following table, has been particularly low *i.e.* 37.7%, 71.90% and 61.07% respectively.

Statement of fund allocation and utilization under DPEP for the last 3 years

Name of the States	<u>Rs. in crores</u>					
	GOI releases	2001-02 Utilization	GOI releases	2002-03 Utilization	GOI releases	2003-04 Utilization
Bihar	45.00	49.36	64.00	40.53	128.33	48.37
West Bengal	42.00	43.59	78.50	66.37	81.40	58.53
Orissa	55.00	4.62	73.00	25.63	61.38	37.49

ACTION TAKEN

There are various reasons for under utilization of funds in the projects. The major issues are non-filling up of large numbers of teacher vacancies and declaration of general election in the month of Feb.-March 2004. Non- filling of teacher vacancies also effected other head of expenditures like TLM grant, in service teacher training etc.

Bihar could not fill up teacher vacancies due to Court interventions and could not procure furniture, equipment at CRCs and BRCs level and the printing of textbooks during 2003-04 was delayed. The progress in civil works was also slow due to floods for 3-6 months.

In West Bengal the expenditure was low during 2003-04 as the release of school and teacher grants was delayed due to reconstitution of the VECs after the Panchayat elections.

In Orissa the utilization of funds was low as release of State matching share was delayed which had its adverse impact on the release of second installment by Government of India. The State could not take any new activity due to imposition of the model code of conduct in the month of Feb.-March 2004 for the General Elections.

VII MAHILA SAMAKHYA

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

7.5 To a question regarding the targets fixed for the Xth Plan period and the achievements thereof in respect of Mahila Samakhya, the Department had stated the following:

"No targets are fixed under the Mahila Samakhya scheme as the MS scheme adopts an innovative approach, which emphasizes the process rather than mere fulfillment of targets. Education in Mahila Samakhya is not merely acquiring basic literacy skills but is a process of learning to question, critically analyzing issues and problems and seeking solutions. It allows the women to learn at their own pace, set their own priorities and seek knowledge and information to make informed choices."

ACTION TAKEN

In the Mahila Samakhya programme, no targets are set by the Government of India or State Governments in a conscious resolve, to allow grassroot women to set their own priorities and plan their targets for action. The local level aspirations, are reflected through a process which culminates in the State Mahila Samakhya Programmes' annual work plan. This work plan, its physical & financial aspects are reviewed & monitored by Government of India & the State Mahila Samakhya Programme regularly.

There are, therefore, certain "enabling processes" and a set of "annual programmatic interventions" that are monitored annually.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

7.6 The Committee is not inclined to agree with the contentions of the Department given above, which appears to be an attempt to mystify the whole thing. After all, basic aim of the programme is to enable our women, most of whom are in rural areas, illiterate, poor, with little powers either in their family or in the society. The Committee fails to comprehend as to how the Department proposes to enable such target groups to learn to question critically, analyzing issues and programmes and seeking solutions, set their own priorities, seek knowledge and information, to make informed choices, etc. The Committee feels that there has to be some kind of enabling activities for achieving these objectives. The Committee is of the firm opinion that it is possible to fix targets in respect of those activities both in terms of number as well as time-schedule. The Committee is surprised to see that it has not been done. The Committee reiterates, as it has done in this report in the case of DPEP, that such kind of open-ended approach without fixing targets would lead us nowhere. It, therefore, recommends that targets and time-schedule may be fixed for this scheme also.

ACTION TAKEN

The core activities of the programme centre around issues of health, education of women and girls, accessing public services, addressing issues of violence and social practices which discriminate against women and girls, gaining entry into local governance, seeking sustainable livelihoods etc. The enabling activities of the programme are:

- Formation of Women's collectives (Sanghas) by women facilitators (Sahyoginis) for mobilizing women.
- Dissemination of information, awareness building and facilitating collective action on core themes indicated above.
- Development of supportive structures such as Mahila Shikshan Kendras for the education of older girls and young women who have never been enrolled or have dropped out of school, setting up Nari Adalats for addressing issues of violence against women, etc.

MS scheme has been designed to evolve targets for its annual programmatic interventions through decentralized planning. Women in the Sanghas at the village level identify the key areas around which thematic inputs are required, and these inform the development of the Annual Work Plan and Budget of each State MS Society. The AWP and Budget of each State reflects targets in:

- a) The number of new villages where programme activities are to be initiated and the number of new 'sanghas' that are to be formed.
- b) The number of trainings to be conducted for Sangha/Federation women in the core thematic areas,
- c) The number of facilitative structures like Mahila Shikshan Kendras, Nari Adalats etc. to be established,

Due to decentralized nature of planning for programmatic interventions, there is no prescription of targets based on uniform parameters for all MS States. However, each State MS Society does have targets for each of its District

Implementation Units (DIUs) and the State Project Office (SPO) that are derived from decentralized planning from the 'Sangha' level and that primarily center around the three parameters indicated above. The major targets under the Mahila Samakhya Scheme for 2005-06, based on targets set by State MS Societies, are at **Annexure-XI**.

In the Tenth Plan, two targets regarding geographical expansion and baseline surveys have been set. With regard to geographical expansion, the target is to have a critical coverage of at least 250 villages in each district. This has been achieved in most of the districts where the programme is being implemented. The details are at **Annexure-XII**. The second target is to undertake baseline surveys in all new areas taken up during the Xth Plan, which will provide benchmarks for evaluation of impact of the programme at the end of the Plan period. Baseline surveys are being undertaken in all new expansion areas.

VIII. ADULT EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

8.6 NGOs play an active promotional role in the literacy movement. These NGOs are provided 100 per cent financial assistance for imparting literacy to adult neo-literates in the age-group of 15-35, conducting evaluation and impact studies etc. NGOs are also associated in the Continuing Education Programme as per the Annual Report (2004-2005) of the Department. The Committee notes that during 2003-04, 40 NGOs were sanctioned funds amounting to Rs. 13.28 crores for various basic literacy programmes and 117 NGOs in Orissa and 97 NGOs in UP were sanctioned Rs. 11.16 crores. The Committee would like to have an idea about the work done by these NGOs in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

ACTION TAKEN

During 2003-04 and 2004-05, grant was given to 40 NGOs of which, 25 were for the purpose of State Resource Centres. The total grant given to the SRCs was Rs.12,51,65,659/- in 2003-04 and Rs.13,41,58,791/- in 2004-05. The State Resource Centres are spread all over India in various States and UTs. The grants to SRCs are given for functions such as preparation of teaching learning and training materials for literacy programmes, training of literacy functionaries, action research, evaluation & monitoring of literacy projects and undertaking innovative projects to identify future needs of literacy programmes.

Grants to other Non-Governmental Organizations given during 2003-04 and 2004-05 amounted to Rs.76,32,656/- and Rs.1,20,05,916/- respectively. The grants were given to these NGOs for literacy work in various States under the scheme of support to NGOs in the field of Adult Education. The grants are given to NGOs for Continuing Education Schemes in specific blocks of the districts where the scheme has not been launched by ZSS. Other activities funded include organizing of functional literacy component in development programmes such as health care, women development, environmental conservation, SC/ST development, vocational and technical education programme for imparting skills relevant to the needs and interests of the neo-literates, training to youths to facilitate implementation of NLM objectives, eradication of female literacy etc. The grants to the NGOs are given on the recommendations of the Education Department of the concerned State.

In 2003-04 and 2004-05, the NGOs implemented the Female Literacy Projects in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. The Accelerated Female Literacy Project (AFLP) in Uttar Pradesh was launched on 1st December 2002 in 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh having Female Literacy rate below 30% as per Census 2001. These districts are Maharajganj, Siddharth Nagar, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Bahraich, Badaun and Rampur. The project was implemented through 97 NGOs and covered approximately 24.79 lakh illiterate women in these districts. The monthly monitoring of the work of NGOs including test check of learners was done by 4 external State Resource Centres i.e. SRCs of Bhopal, Indore, Delhi and Rohtak/Dehradun. The teaching learning phase of the project came to an end on 30th April 2003. The evaluation of the project was done jointly by the Programme Evaluation Organization, Planning Commission and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The evaluation showed that the 6 districts achieved more than 60% results whereas 2 districts were below 60%.

The AFLP in Orissa was sanctioned in the year 2003 for implementation through 122 NGOs to cover 10.43 lakh illiterate women in 9 districts at a per learner cost of Rs.120/-. These districts are Malkangiri, Nawrangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sonapur and Gajapati. As per the consolidated progress report (Dec. 2004) received from the Govt. of Orissa, 49,722 centres have been opened and 9,03,385 learners have been enrolled. Out of which 5,80,016 learners are reported to have completed Primer-III. It is proposed to have the project evaluated by the external evaluation agencies. A panel of such agencies has been sent to the State Govt. for assigning the evaluation work based on which the actual achievement figures will be known.

X. PROBLEM OF DROPOUTS

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.7 The MDM scheme, no doubt, has not only attracted children to the schools but also in retaining them but the Committee feels that this scheme has not had the desired impact in attracting children from poor families, which is one of its main objectives. In such a scenario, sustained efforts will now to be made for achieving the two main objectives of the SSA (i) universalizing primary schooling by 2007 and (ii) elementary education by 2010, otherwise it might remain elusive.

ACTION TAKEN

The concern of the Committee is noted for compliance.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.8 The Committee, no doubt, is aware of some inherent and practical limitation in achieving hundred per cent enrolment as well as retention of the students in schools. Factors responsible for this are many and complex. However, in view of successes achieved in this regard by States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which have very low dropout, our efforts should be to imitate their example and apply those strategies for poorly performing States.

ACTION TAKEN

Suggestion of the Committee is noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.9 The Committee is of the opinion that the children who have dropped out can be integrated with the Continuing Education Programmes of Adult Education so that they are able to undertake activities relating to income generation providing skills in area specific activities.

ACTION TAKEN

Suggestion of the Committee is noted.

CHAPTER-III**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE****II. SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN****RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS**

2.5 The Committee, however, observes some disturbing aspects in the utilization of funds under SSA last year. Figures regarding state-wise expenditure provided to the Committee under this head included unspent balances also. On a query, the Secretary of the Department clarified that in the year 2003-04, some States came very late for approval of their Plans, so whatever amount was sanctioned to them was to meet the unspent balance at the beginning of April 2004. The Central Government could release its share only after analyzing the performance of the States. As per the existing procedure, if there is an unspent balance of the previous year, it is accounted for in the next financial year. The money does not lapse, but the spill over amount is adjusted.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.6 The Committee does not find the clarification given by the Department convincing. Position was the same during 2002-03 also. As per the information available with the Committee, expenditure details include not only unspent balance but State share also. Information regarding 2002-03, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is self-revealing: -

(Rs. in crores)

2002-2003		2003-04		2004-05	
Grants released	Expenditure including U.B and state share	Grants	Expenditure	Grants	Expenditure (31.12.04)
1558.28	1305.65	2698.38	3604.25	5006.52	36.55

ACTION TAKEN

2.5 & 2.6 The total funds available with States/UTs include Central share released, State share released and the unspent balance at the beginning of the year and the expenditure incurred (as on 31.3.2005) is given in the Statement at **Annexure-I**. A Statement showing the grants released and the expenditure incurred is at **Annexure-II**.

Each year a small proportion of funds remain in the pipeline for ongoing activities like civil works etc., and such amount treated as unspent balance for the next year when Central funds are released for the next year, the unspent balance of pervious year is adjusted i.e. deducted. In large-scale programmes like SSA, covering 12 lakh habitations in the country, a pipeline of funds of works in progress is inevitable, as the works are distributed in all villages/habitations/schools of the country.

The information provided in the chart by the Hon. Committee is corrected for the year 2004-05 as follows:

Grants released 2004-05	Expenditure 2004-05
5113.14 crores	6640.46 crores

It is further reiterated that utilization levels of SSA are showing a positive trend, where States are being able to utilize funds better with each year:-

(Rs. in Crores)					
2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Grant released by GOI	Expenditure (including State released & opening balance)	Grant released by GOI	Expenditure (including State released & opening balance)	Grant released by GOI	Expenditure (including GOI, State Share released & opening balance)
1558.28	1305.65	2698.38	3604.25	5113.14	6640.66

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee observes that trend of utilization of allocated funds under SSA by State Governments is showing a positive trend. As on 31st March, 2005, State Governments have been able to utilize 83% of allocated funds. The Committee would, however, like to point these average figures do not give the actual status of the premier programme of the Department. The Committee is not inclined to fully accept the contention of the Department that every year a small proportion of funds would remain as unspent balance for the next year. Ground reality is that the increase in allocated funds is also reflected in the unspent/balances available with the States at the end of the year. Details furnished by the Department clearly indicate that against the availability of unspent funds of Rs. 1055.68 crore at the end of 2003-2004, this amount increased to Rs. 1283.00 crore in 2004-5. All India average utilization of 83.81% notwithstanding, there are State/UTs having a utilization average of 12.65 % (Pondicherry), 41.59 % (Arunachal Pradesh), 45.18 % (Delhi), 46.46% (Sikkim), 50.20% (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). The Committee would like to emphasise that the Department should pursue with the weak performing States/UTs to improve their utilization level. If need be, norms under SSA should be made state-specific.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.12 The Committee notes that the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a centrally sponsored scheme for universalizing elementary education in the Mission Mode with holistic and convergent approach. It is a noble scheme in the sense that almost every aspect of primary education has been included in its ambit with a view to have a focused as well as integrated approach in universalising primary education. Due to significant priority accorded to SSA, fund allocated to it has been doubled in the year 2005-06. About two-third of the allocation to the Department of Elementary Education is spent on this one scheme alone. But the Committee feels that the physical performance in the past under various components of the scheme inspires little confidence. Following Table provides items approved under SSA during 2001-2005 and progress achieved.

S.N.	Components	Target	Achieved
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1.	New School Sanctioned	1,37,747	1,09,642 (as on Dec. 2004)
2.	New Teachers appointed	6,68,478	3,10,506

ACTION TAKEN

The physical achievements under SSA are quite significant. The achievements at the end of 2004-05 may be seen at **Annexure-III**.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that the information does not specifically delineate the targets achieved; it has clubbed the works in progress with those completed, The Committee is perturbed to note that 81% of the of drinking water facilities are either completed or in progress. This state of affairs is also evident in construction of toilets, recruitment of teachers and annual in service training of teacher. The Committee would like to have separate latest figures in respect of different components of SSA. The Committee strongly recommends that the Department take all measures to achieve its physical targets within a time frame.

OBSERVATION OF THE COMMITTEE

2.16 Similarly, the achievement with regard to construction of toilets and providing drinking water facilities is as low as 30.13% and 50.43% respectively as against their targets.

ACTION TAKEN

Substantial progress has been achieved in so far as construction of toilets and provision of drinking water facilities . As against the targets up to March 2005 following progress is achieved:-

1	Targets (Toilets)	156634
2	Toilets facilities completed	88012(56%)
3	Toilets in progress	32684
4	Target (drinking water)	111147
5	Drinking water facilities completed	63448 (57%)
6	Drinking water facilities in progress	26717

In addition to above, States are understood to have also undertaken the task of providing toilets & drinking water facilities through convergence of resources from other Schemes.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that the progress in terms of achieving various targets under different components of SSA is of crucial importance. It notes that 56 percent achievement in case of toilets and 57 percent achievement in regard to drinking water may not be very significant; but those in progress, if included, do not present a dismal picture. The Committee emphasizes the need for more vigorous efforts for achieving various targets as SSA is a time-bound scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

2.18 The scheme, even after four years of its implementation has not made any visible impact on the ground. Data from NIEPA has shown that most of the facilities claimed to being provided under the SSA are non-existent in the schools in rural areas. Lack of toilets and drinking water is a common problem in the schools. As per 2003-04 figures, drinking water was not available in 49% schools in Andhra and 33% in Karnataka. In Bihar and Jharkhand nearly 20% children did not enjoy the facility of a blackboard. About 62% primary schools in Assam, 34% in Andhra, 30% in Meghalaya had only one classroom. These figures are, of course, for the year 2003-04, but the Committee feels that nothing revolutionary might have happened since then to dramatically alter this situation. Some of significant findings brought out in the NIEPA reports give an indication about the ground realities about primary schools:-

- Highest percentage of single classroom schools	-	62.7% in Assam
- Highest percentage of single teacher schools	-	38.6% in Rajasthan
- Highest pupil teacher ratio	-	71 in Bihar
- Lowest percentage of female teachers	-	17.1% in Bihar
- Lowest percentage of schools with girl toilets	-	3.4% in Tripura

- Lowest percentage of schools with drinking water facility - 36.8% in Nagaland
- Highest % of no. of female teacher schools - 70.3% in Punjab
- Lowest average no. of teachers per schools - 1.9 in Jharkhand
- Highest no of schools without building - 5890 in Rajasthan

ACTION TAKEN

Implementation of civil works has picked up speed and substantial progress in cumulative terms has been achieved. The cumulative financial progress for the period ended 31st March 2005 for all the States has been to the extent of 72.48%. However, special efforts are required to be made to gear up the speed of implementation of civil works components in the States like Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and West Bengal.

During 2005 PAB meetings, all States were instructed to complete pending civil works by December '05.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Reply of the Department does not speak about the state of elementary education as projected by the NIEPA report mentioned in the Committee's recommendation. The Committee would like to have latest figures in respect of all the indicators mentioned in its recommendation contained in paragraph no. 2.18

V. STRENGTHENING OF TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

5.4 The Committee observes that against a target of setting up of 100 new DIETs and 125 CTEs & IASEs, during the Ninth Plan, only 39 DIETs and 9 CTEs and 4 IASEs could be set up. As a result, allocated funds for the strengthening of Teacher Training Institutions also remained under-utilised. The Committee is disappointed to know that the implementation of the scheme during the 10th Plan could take off only in the year 2004-05 *i.e.* during its third year. As per the revised guidelines issued in January 2004, the Committee notes that the main objective of the scheme during the 10th Plan was to make up for the shortages in completion as well as operationalisation of the sanctioned institutions/projects during the 9th Plan. Therefore, currently, the emphasis of this scheme is not on expansion but on clearing the backlogs of yester years. This scenario reflects the poor performance of the scheme crystal clear. The Committee fails to understand as to how the Department will be able to fulfill its objectives of this scheme in remaining just two years of the 10th Five Year Plan. Trend of under-utilisation of allocated funds during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and also delay in the revision of Teacher Education Scheme indicates that there may not be any noticeable improvement in Tenth Plan also. The Committee appreciates certain practical problems *vis-a-vis* formulation and finalization of a State plan which is dependent upon State Implementing Reform Agencies such as recruitment, placement, etc. for teachers education. The Committee notes that target for 2005-2006 is setting up of 15 DIETs, 10 CTEs and 3 IASEs. The Committee hopes that these Training Institutes would be set up during 2005-2006. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the status of 52 new DIETs, 10 CTEs/IASEs approved in 2004-2005 after the revision of the Scheme.

ACTION TAKEN

5.4 The revised Scheme of Teacher Education was approved only on 6.11.2003 and revised guidelines to States were issued in January'2004. During 2004-05, 52 new DIETs and 10 CTEs/IASEs were approved, taking the number of total DIETs/DRCs, which have been approved to 550 (since the inception of the Scheme). Further, as against Rs. 149.63 Crores released during 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 202.53 Crores was released during 2004-05 under Teacher Education Scheme.

Proposals for establishment of DIETs/DRCs in the remaining districts have either not been received from States or the districts are not eligible to have a DIET/DRC, as per the norms.

Regarding the status of 52 DIETs approved in 2004-05, first instalment of civil works has been released for 23 DIETs, which have submitted their Stage-I Estimates. In the case of CTE/IASEs programme grants have been released for 8 new CTEs, sanctioned in 2004-05.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is concerned over the slow pace of civil works for the construction of DIETs approved in 2004-05. It desires that the Department take all necessary measures to complete the construction without any further delay.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

5.5 The Committee observes that against 550 sanctioned DIETs and 102 sanctioned CTEs, only 436 DIETs and 91 CTEs are operational at present. Short-fall is mainly there in 4-5 States. In Madhya Pradesh, against 45 sanctioned DIETs, only 38 are operational. Similarly, only 13 DIETs are operational in Orissa, against sanctioned 30 DIETs. The Committee would like to understand the constraints being faced in making sanctioned DIETs/CTEs operational. The Committee is more worried about the status of these bodies in Bihar and Jharkhand. In Bihar, out of 37 districts, DIETs have been sanctioned only in 24 districts, and out of these 24 sanctioned DIETs, only 18 are operational. Similarly, in Jharkhand, out of 22 districts, only 10 DIETs have been sanctioned and 9 are operational. While giving the statewise break-up of DIETs and CTEs, the Department has, however, informed that their status in Bihar and Jharkhand is being verified. The Committee, is constrained to observe that the Department has its own doubts about the functional status of DIETs in Bihar and Jharkhand.

ACTION TAKEN

In Madhya Pradesh, as against 45 sanctioned DIETs, 38 DIETs are operational as 7 DIETs were sanctioned only during 2004-05. Similarly, in Orissa 13 DIETs/DRCs were approved during 2004-2005. In this context, it is also mentioned that construction of building, creation of posts, recruitment and placement of staff by States, takes sometime. Hence, there is some time- gap between sanction of DIETs and their operationalization.

State Governments of Jharkhand and Bihar have been requested vide letters dated 31.3.2005, 8.4.2005 and 9.6.2005 respectively to send information on the status of implementation of Teacher Education Scheme. The matter is being pursued vigorously.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has been informed that delay in the operationalisation of sanctioned DIETs takes place mainly due to the time taken in construction of buildings, creation of posts, recruitment and placement of staff by States. The Committee would like to point out that the DIETs and SCERTs play a major role in the development of text-books, teaching-learning material, quality monitoring of schools. As per the information available with the Committee, out of sanctioned 550 DIETs, only 436 DIETs are operational. Last year, the Committee had commented about the lack of information about the functional status of DIETs in Bihar and Jharkhand. The Committee is constrained to observe that that position remains unchanged as response is still awaited to the Department's communications in this regard sent to State Governments of Jharkhand and Bihar on 31st March, 8th April and 9th June, 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

5.6 The Committee would also like to be apprised about the monitoring mechanism for these institutes. Findings of latest survey done about the functioning of these institutes may also be conveyed to the Committee.

ACTION TAKEN

States are required to send Half-yearly progress reports on the implementation of the Scheme. The progress is also reviewed in the National and Regional Review Meeting of State Education Secretaries held by Secretary (EE&L). In addition to this, a Teacher Education Resource Group (TERG) has been constituted in the current year to review implementation of the Teacher Education Scheme and advise as to future directions. The TERG will also undertake a detailed Mid-Term Review on the implementation of the Scheme in the current year.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that a Teacher Education Resource Group (TERG) has been constituted this year to review the implementation of the Teacher Education Scheme. The Committee would like to draw the attention of the Department towards the following observations made by the Planning Commission in the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan:-

“The Joint Review Missions (JRM) of DPEP have noted that vacancies have not been filled in many DIETs, affecting various training programmes... Teachers' vacancies at all levels should be filled up urgently and there should be advance planning for future requirements too. Pre-service and in-service training of teachers should be strengthened and all the DIETs, BRCs and CRCs be made fully functional by filling up the vacant faculty positions... The performance of the institutional arrangements for teachers' education should be closely and regularly monitored preferably by external agencies.”

The Committee hopes that the Department would initiate the required action as suggested by the Planning Commission in the Mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan.

VI. DISTRICT PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME (DPEP)

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

6.7 The Committee also would like to point out that the main objectives of the DPEP like reducing dropout rate to less than 10% and reducing gender associated disparities regarding enrolment etc., to less than 5%, were set without fixing any time frame, as has been done in the case of the SSA. The Committee disapproves of such an open-ended approach. That is why, perhaps these goals have remained elusive. In the light of this, the Department should see that the scheme produce better results in the remaining period.

ACTION TAKEN

The SSA goals are time bound keeping in view that the SSA programme had been under funded in the initial years, the goals have been revised as follow:

- i) All 6-14 age children in school/EGS centre/bridge course by 2005.
- ii) All 6-14 age children complete quality elementary education with universal retention by 2010.
- iii) Bridge all gender & social gaps in elementary education by 2010.

These are applicable even in districts where DPEP is being implemented.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The comments of the Department regarding action taken does not say anything about fixing goals time bound, about various components of the DPEP.

VII. MAHILA SAMAKHYA

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

7.3 The Committee was informed that the BE for the MS scheme was reduced from Rs. 30.00 crores in BE 2004-2005 to Rs. 15.00 crores at RE stage. Rs. 30 crores have been allocated for the year 2005-2006. The Department explained that the reduction in 2004-05 was because the two States, viz. Bihar and Jharkhand, which were expected to be funded directly under the MS Scheme will come under direct MS funding only from the financial year 2005-2006, since DPEP funding has been extended till September 2005. It is not clear to the Committee as to why direct funding to Bihar and Jharkhand was not allowed on the plea that DPEP funding to these States was extended till September, 2005. But the Committee notes that objectives of this Scheme and the DPEP are quite different. Besides, the Committee fails to understand as to why this situation was faced only in the case of Bihar and Jharkhand particularly when States like Andhra Pradesh, U.P. and Uttaranchal are also covered under MS Scheme as well as DPEP. Funding under DPEP has also been extended upto September, 2008 in these States. The Committee would like to have further information in this regard.

ACTION TAKEN

Mahila Samakhya (MS) Scheme in undivided Bihar (including the present State of Jharkhand) was introduced as a component of UNICEF sponsored Bihar Education Project (BEP) in 1992 and in 1997, Government of Bihar requested that the component be continued under the new DPEP Bihar, as BEP was closing. MS in Bihar is being funded by DPEP since then.

MS Scheme was launched in undivided UP (including the present State of Uttaranchal) and AP *before* the introduction of DPEP in these States, as a Central Sector Scheme since 1989.

The UP DPEP III, covering undivided UP was started in 2000 and included an MS component for expansion districts. Government of UP decided that UPDPEP (III) would implement the MS programme through the already existing MS Society in UP and provide extension to additional 6 districts.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

7.4 The Committee is dismayed to note that the BE allocations for the MS Scheme had been reduced at RE during the last three years. The Department has failed to utilize even its reduced allocation in the years, 2003-2003, 2003-2004 and

2004-2005. It is also disappointed to note that the post of Consultants in the National Office of Mahila Samakhya could be filled only in February 2004, which remained vacant for a long time. The Committee would like the Department to ensure that all the resource persons were appointed in time for the successful implementation of the Scheme.

ACTION TAKEN

In 2002-2003, several posts remained unfilled during the year; Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting for revision of MS Scheme was delayed and MS Scheme could not be expanded as envisaged. This led to low utilisation of funds. Approval for continuation and expansion of MS Scheme came only in August 2003, and correspondingly, expenditure was less in 2003-2004 also. In 2004-2005, it was expected that Bihar and Jharkhand would come under direct MS funding by GOI, as the DPEP scheme under which MS was being funded in these two States was coming to an end in 2004-2005. However, DPEP funding to Bihar and Jharkhand was extended till September 2005. As a result, GOI funds under MS were not needed and the scheme continued to be funded by DPEP in 2004-2005. This factor contributed to low utilisation of funds in 2004-2005.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Para 7.3 & 7.4)

The Committee is concerned to note that the Mahila Samakhya Scheme is being funded from DPEP funds in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee strongly feels that such a practice might have adversely affected the execution of DPEP. The Committee desires that the MS Scheme be funded from the funds assigned for it. It should be ensured that there is no reduction at the RE stage in MS Scheme funds.

IX. JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

9.5 The Committee learns that persons benefited under the Scheme have been increasing and in 2003-04, it was 16.66 lakhs compared to 14.74 lakhs in 2002-2003. The Committee feels that though there are no fixed quantitative targets to be achieved, yet the quantum of beneficiaries should have been more than what it is today. It hopes that the Department with the enhanced allocations would take necessary measures to cover more people within the ambit of JSS. Moreover, the Committee does not know the level of absorption in industry, of the beneficiaries of the vocational courses run by these Sansthans or those going for self-employment. It desires that the Department should undertake some kind of survey to find out this fact, which would give a clear picture about the utility as well as success of this programme.

ACTION TAKEN

With the increasing number of Jan Shikshan Sansthans, the number of beneficiaries is also increasing. However, to ascertain the level of absorption of the beneficiaries of the vocational courses run by Jan Shikshan Sansthans in industry or those going for self-employment, steps are being taken to obtain and incorporate suitable data in the annual report of the Jan Shikshan Sansthans on these aspects. Evaluation of Jan Shikshan Sansthans has been conducted. Efforts are being made to improve the working of JSS.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Last year, the Committee had observed that there was a need for having an assessment made about the working of Jan Shikshan Sansthans, particularly about the level of absorption of beneficiaries of vocational courses in industry. The Committee finds that Planning Commission has also analysed the functioning of JSS in the Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan in the following manner:-

“Evaluation showed that only 16 JSS (20%) out of 80 JSSs could be rated as ‘very good’ and 23 JSS, (29%) were graded either ‘average or below average’. Some of the JSSs are not functioning well, calling for urgent remedial and corrective steps to improve their activities. The quality of NGOs and their performance under JSS should be regularly monitored and an accreditation process evolved by the Central or State Governments to weed out those who have not performed.”

The Committee hopes that the Department would initiate corrective steps as suggested by Planning Commission.

The Committee would also like to be apprised about the available data regarding absorption of JSS beneficiaries in industry.

X. PROBLEM OF DROPOUTS

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.1 The Committee notes that various schemes, particularly its flagship scheme SSA, are being run by the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy with the ultimate aim of achieving 100% enrollment so that no children in the country remained out of school. Not only that efforts are also being made to retain them as also to provide quality education to all the children between 6-14 by the 2007. The aims of innovative schemes under SSA can particularly be mentioned in this regard. The Committee is concerned that high dropout rates are still persisting-43.89% from class I to V and 52.8% from class I to VIII. It is noted that Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan have the highest dropout rates at primary level. Also Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Mahdy Pradesh and Rajasthan still have a large number of out of school children.

ACTION TAKEN

The gross dropout rate at the Primary level (I-V) was 34.89% and 52.79% for the entire elementary stage (I-VIII) during 2002-03. The dropout rates are declining steadily. From 2001-02 to 2002-03, there was decline of more than 4.1 percentage points at the primary stage (the dropout rate during 2001-02 was 39.03%). For girls the decline in dropout rate in the same period was more than 6 percentage points.

The Department of Elementary Education & Literacy has taken up this issue of dropout with state governments in order to have a phased reduction.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee expresses its concern about more than 50% children dropping out upto VIII class in the country, despite the fact that overall drop-out rate was decreasing. Such a situation, Committee feels, should not have any place for complacency in this regard.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.2 The Committee is anguished to take note of the fact that the above-mentioned States are the ones where the DPEP is still functioning, besides the SSA and MDM Scheme. It feels that the Department should take some concrete and hard measures to improve the situation.

ACTION TAKEN

The Department has been taking up the issues of reduction in dropout rates strongly with all States/UTs. After discussion with States/UTs a phased plan of reduction of dropout rates was prepared. All states except Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand have agreed to plan for reduction of dropout rates at the primary level to 0% by 2007. States have also been requested to project district wise targets for reduction for dropout rates and monitor the same rigorously. The Minister for Human Resource Development had held a meeting with Education Ministers in October 2004 where the need to reduce dropouts was stressed. The issue of dropout has also been stressed during the meetings of Governing Council and Executive Committee of National Mission for SSA on 21.2.2005 and 23.3.2005 respectively.

Several interventions under SSA/DPEP help to improve retention and help in enrolment of dropout children. Incentives like free textbooks for SC/ST children and girls, free uniforms in educationally backward blocks under NPEGEL are impacting on enrolment and retention. Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education, a component of SSA is designed to support flexible strategies for out of school children including dropouts through bridge courses, residential camps etc. Remedial teaching is also provided to children who are not leaving adequately and are potential dropouts. The Mid Day Meal Scheme also impacts positively on enrolment & retention of the primary stage while also improving the nutritional status of students.

Two focused interventions NPEGEL (National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level) & KGBV (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) have been launched in 2004 to reach out to girls from marginalized social groups in identified educationally backward blocks.

The Mid-day Meal programme has been revamped in 2004 to introduce cooked meals in all primary schools, so as to enhance retention & reduce dropouts.

All these measures are impacting on dropout rates and helping in reduction of number of out of school children.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is of the considered opinion that it is high time the Department should appreciate the gravity of the problem of drop-outs and out of school children. The Committee strongly feels that the proper implementation of all the schemes and programmes would have had positive impact on the universalisation of education. The Committee opines that there is an urgent need to take a fresh look into the problem and plug the loopholes to curb the problem of drop-outs. Higher level discussion with the States could help in devising the appropriate measures in the matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.3 Comparative analysis of State wise trends in drop-out rates in 1991-92 and 2003-03 of the Ministry level reveals very disturbing development in respect of North-East States as indicated below.

State	1991-92	2002-03
Assam	56.96	61.17
Meghalaya	26.68	56.51
Nagaland	33.20	51.80
Sikkim	46.43	52.06
India	41.96	34.84

ACTION TAKEN

The dropout rates in the North Eastern states are generally higher. However, the enrolment of a large number of under aged children in class-I and poor quality of school data has also resulted in reporting of high dropout rates. The system of computerization of school level data (DISE) and its regular analysis has been initiated in the North Eastern states only during 2004-05. This is likely to result in better quality of data and monitoring based on the analysis of data.

The concern of the Committee is noted.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is perturbed to note that a large number of under aged children have been enrolled in Class I in North-Eastern States. The Committee wants to emphasise that the Department should take due care to ensure that the joy of childhood is not taken away in the race of attaining targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS /OBSERVATIONS

10.10 The Committee feels that a 'Learn while you Earn' scheme could be an effective measure for retaining the students in the schools. It therefore, recommends that the Government should consider the proposal of providing suitable vocational education to desirous children at the upper primary stage so that those who cannot for any reason pursue education beyond class VIII, enter the world and earn their livelihood.

ACTION TAKEN

Vocational Education is being introduced on a Pilot basis in some states under some programmes of Alternative and Innovative Education. Under NPEGEL (National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level) also the states of Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Haryana and Pondicherry have introduced vocational courses for girls at the upper primary level. Work Education is also being introduced under the INDUS Project being implemented in 20 districts in the five states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and NCT of Delhi.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee appreciates the efforts being made by the Department to help children pursue vocational courses at upper primary stage. However, the Committee feels that the Department should have been proactive in this regard and recommends that vocationalisation be vigorously taken up in other states also.

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****II. SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN****COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee observes that trend of utilization of allocated funds under SSA by State Governments is showing a positive trend. As on 31st March, 2005, State Governments have been able to utilize 83% of allocated funds. The Committee would, however, like to point these average figures do not give the actual status of the premier programme of the Department. The Committee is not inclined to fully accept the contention of the Department that every year a small proportion of funds would remain as unspent balance for the next year. Ground reality is that the increase in allocated funds is also reflected in the unspent/balances available with the States at the end of the year. Details furnished by the Department clearly indicate that against the availability of unspent funds of Rs. 1055.68 crore at the end of 2003-2004, this amount increased to Rs. 1283.00 crore in 2004-5. All India average utilization of 83.81% notwithstanding, there are State/UTs having a utilization average of 12.65 % (Pondicherry), 41.59 % (Arunachal Pradesh), 45.18 % (Delhi), 46.46% (Sikkim), 50.20% (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). The Committee would like to emphasise that the Department should pursue with the weak performing States/UTs to improve their utilization level. If need be, norms under SSA should be made state-specific. (Para 2.5 & 2.6))

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that the information does not specifically delineate the targets achieved; it has clubbed the works in progress with those completed, The Committee is perturbed to note that 81% of the of drinking water facilities are either completed or in progress. This state of affairs is also evident in construction of toilets, recruitment of teachers and annual in service training of teacher. The Committee would like to have separate latest figures in respect of different components of SSA. The Committee strongly recommends that the Department take all measures to achieve its physical targets within a time frame. (Para 2.12)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that the progress in terms of achieving various targets under different components of SSA is of crucial importance. It notes that 56 percent achievement in case of toilets and 57 percent achievement in regard to drinking water may not be very significant; but those in progress, if included, do not present a dismal picture. The Committee emphasizes the need for more vigorous efforts for achieving various targets as SSA is a time-bound scheme. (Para 2.16)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Reply of the Department does not speak about the state of elementary education as projected by the NIEPA report mentioned in the Committee's recommendation. The Committee would like to have latest figures in respect of all the indicators mentioned in its recommendation contained in paragraph no. 2.18 (Para 2.18)

V. STRENGTHENING OF TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS**COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee is concerned over the slow pace of civil works for the construction of DIETs approved in 2004-05. It desires that the Department take all necessary measures to complete the construction without any further delay. (Para 5.4)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has been informed that delay in the operationalisation of sanctioned DIETs takes place mainly due to the time taken in construction of buildings, creation of posts, recruitment and placement of staff by States. The Committee would like to point out that the DIETs and SCERTs play a major role in the development of text-books, teaching-learning material, quality monitoring of schools. As per the information available with the Committee, out of sanctioned 550 DIETs, only 436 DIETs are operational. Last year, the Committee had commented about the lack of information about the

functional status of DIETs in Bihar and Jharkhand. The Committee is constrained to observe that that position remains unchanged as response is still awaited to the Department's communications in this regard sent to State Governments of Jharkhand and Bihar on 31st March, 8th April and 9th June, 2005. (Para 5.5)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee notes that a Teacher Education Resource Group (TERG) has been constituted this year to review the implementation of the Teacher Education Scheme. The Committee would like to draw the attention of the Department towards the following observations made by the Planning Commission in the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan:-

“The Joint Review Missions (JRM) of DPEP have noted that vacancies have not been filled in many DIETs, affecting various training programmes... Teachers' vacancies at all levels should be filled up urgently and there should be advance planning for future requirements too. Pre-service and in-service training of teachers should be strengthened and all the DIETs, BRCs and CRCs be made fully functional by filling up the vacant faculty positions... The performance of the institutional arrangements for teachers' education should be closely and regularly monitored preferably by external agencies.”

The Committee hopes that the Department would initiate the required action as suggested by the Planning Commission in the Mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan. (Para 5.6)

VI. DISTRICT PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME (DPEP)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The comments of the Department regarding action taken does not say anything about fixing goals time bound, about various components of the DPEP. (Para 6.7)

VII. MAHILA SAMAKHYA

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is concerned to note that the Mahila Samakhya Scheme is being funded from DPEP funds in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee strongly feels that such a practice might have adversely affected the execution of DPEP. The Committee desires that the MS Scheme be funded from the funds assigned for it. It should be ensured that there is no reduction at the RE stage in MS Scheme funds. (Para 7.3 & 7.4)

IX. JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Last year, the Committee had observed that there was a need for having an assessment made about the working of Jan Shikshan Sansthans, particularly about the level of absorption of beneficiaries of vocational courses in industry. The Committee finds that Planning Commission has also analysed the functioning of JSS in the Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan in the following manner:-

“Evaluation showed that only 16 JSS (20%) out of 80 JSSs could be rated as ‘very good’ and 23 JSS, (29%) were graded either ‘average or below average’. Some of the JSSs are not functioning well, calling for urgent remedial and corrective steps to improve their activities. The quality of NGOs and their performance under JSS should be regularly monitored and an accreditation process evolved by the Central or State Governments to weed out those who have not performed.”

The Committee hopes that the Department would initiate corrective steps as suggested by Planning Commission. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the available data regarding absorption of JSS beneficiaries in industry. (Para 9.5)

X. PROBLEM OF DROPOUTS

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee expresses its concern about more than 50% children dropping out upto VIII class in the country, despite the fact that overall drop-out rate was decreasing. Such a situation, Committee feels, should not have any place for complacency in this regard. (Para 10.1)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is of the considered opinion that it is high time the Department should appreciate the gravity of the problem of drop-outs and out of school children. The Committee strongly feels that the proper implementation of all the schemes and programmes would have had positive impact on the universalisation of education. The Committee opines that there is an urgent need to take a fresh look into the problem and plug the loopholes to curb the problem of drop-outs. Higher level discussion with the States could help in devising the appropriate measures in the matter. (Para 10.2)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is perturbed to note that a large number of under aged children have been enrolled in Class I in North-Eastern States. The Committee wants to emphasise that the Department should take due care to ensure that the joy of childhood is not taken away in the race of attaining targets. (Para 10.3)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee appreciates the efforts being made by the Department to help children pursue vocational courses at upper primary stage. However, the Committee feels that the Department should have been proactive in this regard and recommends that vocationalisation be vigorously taken up in other states also. (Para 10.10)

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

IX

NINTH MEETING

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 14th December, 2005, in Room No. 63, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri Vayalar Ravi ¾ *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Smt. Brinda Karat
3. Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani
4. Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

LOK SABHA

5. Shri Basudeb Barman
6. Shri Hari Sinh Chavda
7. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
8. Dr. Thokchom Meinya
9. Shri Krishna Murari Moghe
10. Shri Mohd. Mukim
11. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat
12. Shri M. Rajamohan Reddy
13. Smt. P. Satheedevi
14. Shri A.R. Shaheen
15. Smt. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar

SECRETARIAT

Smt Vandana Garg, Joint Secretary
Shri N.K. Singh, Director
Shri J. Sundriyal, Under Secretary
Shri Swarabji B., Committee Officer
Smt Meena Kandwal, Research Officer

2. x x x

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the 171st Action taken Report on the recommendation/observation contained in 158th report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) in respect of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy. The Committee adopted the same with some modifications.

4. The Committee decided that the Reports may be presented to the Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on Friday, the 16th December, 2005. The Committee authorized Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, and in his absence, Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah to present the Reports in the Rajya Sabha and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and in his absence Smt. P. Satheedevi to lay the Reports in the Lok Sabha.

5. The Committee, then, adjourned at 5.10 p.m. to meet again at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 22nd December, 2005.

xxx relates to other matter.

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