

Health Care Scheme

3366. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the centrally sponsored Health Care Schemes being operated through NGOs in the country particularly in Delhi, U.P. and Bihar; and

(b) the amount allocated for these schemes during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Women High Schools and Colleges

3367. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no High School and College for women in Allahabad particularly in Chayal Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the educational development of women of this constituency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

NGOs in Assam

3368. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Non-Government Organisations providing health services in Assam that receive aid from the Union Government; and

(b) the details of the services being provided by those NGOs to the public during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Child Marriage

3369. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether child marriage system is still prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to take any special measures to check this system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) to (c) Child Marriage is prevailing in certain parts of the country. The Government of India has already enacted the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 fixing the minimum age for marriage for boys at 21 years and for girls at 18 years. The administration and implementation of this Act is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Government is implementing the National Plan of Action for the girl child which focusses on survival, protection and development of the girl child. It has stepped up media programmes against child marriages in the country through electronic and print media. Social awareness regarding the ill effects brought about by early marriages and consequent early pregnancy on the health of girl child is being generated under the awareness generation programmes implemented through voluntary agencies and universities. The Central Government has requested the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to consider formulating a specific scheme to raise the status of the girl child, including as one of the objectives, postponement of marriage of girl children beyond the minimum legal age for marriage.

[English]

Non-Utilisation of Funds by NCERT

3370. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the NCERT is not making use their funds for educational purposes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount utilised by NCERT during the last three years towards Educational Development Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Funds provided to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) by the Government of India are used for educational purposes in order to improve the quality of school education.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Educational development programmes undertaken by the NCERT include :

- (i) Curriculam development leading to production of textbooks, work books, teachers' guides' supplementary materials, etc.
- (ii) Training programmes both at Pre-service and Inservice level.
- (iii) Promotion of Educational Research.
- (iv) Conduct of Educational Surveys.
- (v) Support to programmes like District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) etc.
- (vi) National Talent Search.

Year-wise details of the funds utilised by the NCERT from the grants released by the Government of India are as under :

	(Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	- 2568.67
1994-95	- 2744.28
1995-96	- 2473.84

Discovery of Gene

3371. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scientists find gene that might help people lose weight" appearing in the "Times of India" dated March 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Obesity gene was identified three years ago and several studies have been made on this aspect. The news item refers to one of the studies and its potential for the control of obesity through thermogenesis.

(c) Scientists at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad have developed a mutant rat model for study of obesity and the related problem. The potential of the proposed hypothesis could be studied in this model.

[Translation]

Funds to Colleges

3372. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has provided grants to colleges of different States during the last year;

(b) if so, the State-wise and college-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has made a provision or propose to provide amount of grants to the colleges of Gujarat during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, college-wise and item-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pancheswar Dam Project

3373. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nepal has given its final consent for commencement of the work on Pancheswar Dam project;

(b) whether there is still any obstacle in the commencement of the above project; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of the said project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) In accordance with the Treaty signed between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India, the Pancheswar Multipurpose Project is to be constructed in accordance with the Detailed Project Report being jointly prepared by the two countries.

(b) Discussions are in progress, on preparing a joint Detailed Project Report.

(c) The time by which the construction of the project is likely to be commenced would be known after the Detailed Project Report is jointly prepared.