

Sonography for Foetus Test

2662. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'sonography' which had been devised for foetus test is being used for foeticide; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Ultra-Sonography is one of the several methods for pre-natal diagnosis and can be used for determination of the sex of foetus. Government are aware, however, that different pre-natal diagnostic techniques, including ultra-sonography, are being misused for determination of the sex of the foetus leading to female foeticide in different parts of the country.

(b) It is proposed to enact a comprehensive Central legislation to regulate the pre-natal diagnostic techniques and ban use thereof for determination of the sex of the foetus.

[English]

Education Among Handicapped and Disabled Persons

2663. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government

propose to take steps to promote education among the handicapped and disabled persons;

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be extended to the handicapped for getting education in 1991-92 and the assistance actually extended in 1990-91, State-wise;

(c) the directions issued to the State Governments in this regard and the results achieved; and

(d) the steps taken by different State Governments for implementing these directions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Government of India is implementing the following programmes for the education of the disabled children:—

- (i) Integrated Education for the Disabled Children with the objective of providing educational opportunities for the disabled children in common schools.
- (ii) Scheme of assistance to voluntary organisations for the disabled persons for running schools for the handicapped.
- (iii) Provision of scholarships through State Governments to disabled students from Class IX onwards for pursuing education upto Post-Graduation level and Vocational/Technical study.
- (iv) National Institutes for Mentally, Orthopaedically, Visually and Hearing Handicapped are running schools to provide education for the handicapped children in their respective areas.

(b) Assistance actually extended under the above schemes to the States/UTs/Autonomous bodies/Voluntary Organisations

during 1990-91 and that proposed during 1991-92 is as follows:—

Scheme	(Rupees in lakhs)		
	1990-91 (Actuals)	1991-92 (Proposed)	
	2	3	
(1) Integrated Education for the Disabled Children	343.00	400.00	
(2) Scheme of assistance to organisations for the disabled persons	540.00	475.00	
(3) Scheme of scholarship to disabled	459.00	525.00	
(4) National Institutes for Mentally, Orthopaedically, Visually and Hearing Handicapped	898.00	1,053.00	

(c) and (d). The Schemes containing details of implementation are circulated to the States/UTs. The progress of implementation is periodically reviewed. About 28,000 disabled children are presently covered under the Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children. On an average, 50,000 disabled children are given scholarships annually.

Free and Compulsory Primary Education

2664. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make primary education free and compulsory; and

(b) what help is rendered to States like Kerala where primary education is already free?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) In pursuance of the Constitutional directive to provide free and compulsory education to all children upto the age of 14 years, all State Governments have made education free upto upper primary level in all schools run by them. 14 States and 4 Union Territories have also enacted legislation to make primary education compulsory.

(b) The release of grants to all States including Kerala depends upon the projects and proposals submitted by the State Governments.

Financial Help to Kerala for Literacy

2665. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial help the Union Government propose to give to Kerala, to have the follow up programme, after it has achieved 100 per cent literacy;

(b) the financial aid the Union Government propose to give to Kerala for mid day meals programme to students studying in the Primary and Upper Primary schools; and

(c) the financial aid the Union Government propose to give to Kerala to implement the scheme of free education upto 10+2 level?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Total Literacy Campaign in the State of Kerala was implemented by the Kerala Saksharatha Samithi, Thiruvananthapuram, a registered society set up under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Kerala. The campaign culminated in the function organised on April 18, 1991.

Prior to this, the KSS submitted a proposal for 'Post Literacy and Continuing Education' in Kerala.

Meanwhile, on an enquiry made by the Ministry, the Government of Kerala has informed that the State Government itself had received a proposal from the KSS to restructure the organisation at different levels. While considering the proposal in all its aspects, the State Government decided that since the State of Kerala had been declared fully literate on completion of the total Literacy Campaign, it was no longer necessary to continue the present programme implemented through the Kerala Saksharatha Samithi. However, the second phase of the literacy programme for continuing education for the neo-literates and for special programmes for the tribals, fishermen and the Tamil-speaking illiterates in the State will be implemented. The State Government has reported that the project proposal for these