

Title: Need for early release of salaries to 5900 teachers appointed under central scheme in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious issue of urgent public importance. As many as 5,900 teachers of Assam, who were appointed under the Operation Black Board (OBB) Scheme in the 9th Plan, did not get their salaries for the last three years. Now, they have decided to self-immolate on the 15th August, the Independence Day.

Sir, it is a very serious matter. These 5,900 teachers, out of a total of 8,677 who were appointed under the OBB scheme in Assam during the 9th Plan, did not get their salaries since 2002 because this scheme was discontinued beyond the 9th Plan.

Sir, the Planning Commission, as an exception for the North-Eastern States including Assam, decided to meet the expenditure on the salaries of these teachers appointed under the scheme from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the 10th Plan as per the norms. The Ministry of Human Resource Development had also decided to grant the salaries of these teachers appointed under the said scheme from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the 10th Plan and there are specific parliamentary assurance No. 417 dated 5th December, 2003 and 2987 dated 22nd March, 2005. But it is noticed that an amount of Rs. 20.52 crore only was sanctioned to cover the salaries of only 2,851 teachers out of a total of 8,677 appointed under the scheme.

Now, the remaining 5,900 teachers who are not getting their salaries since 2002, have decided to self-immolate on 15th August, 2005. The State Government, instead of regularising the teachers with retrospective effect, so that they are entitled, as per norms, to get salary, has not pursued the matter with the Ministry of Human Resource Development at the Centre. The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is present here and he is also quite aware of the issue.

I would, therefore, request that this matter should be sorted out by the Union Government with all seriousness before 15th August, 2005, and whatever amount of salaries which is due from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, should be released immediately. Otherwise, the Union Government would have to take the full responsibility if any one of these teachers has to self-immolate, due to lapse on the part of the Union Government on account of non-release of their salaries for the last three years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Kishan Singh Sangwan.

Now, the difficulty is that all of you want to make lengthy submission, which is not the right way of raising the matter of urgent public importance.