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Title: Need to give financial assistance under a Special Central Scheme to non-commercial public educational institutes in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Madam Chairman, although education is a state subject, the Union Government is promoting education through UGC grants and various Central Schemes including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Anganwadi, Mid-day-Meal etc. besides establishing Central Universities, Regional Engineering Colleges, Kendriya and Novodaya Vidyalayas, etc. In Assam, many Public Institutes including Madrasas from Lower Primary Level to Degree Level are imparting formal education to more than half of the total enrolled students without getting any financial aid either from Central or State Government. A large number of such institutes established and managed by public have served up to 25 years after duly recognized by Assam Government on getting affiliated to concerned Universities and Boards. Also, the central funds are flowing to the institutions, which are already getting regular grants from Assam Government. Further, more than half of the formal education in Assam is running without Government support. The Union Government avoided supporting these non-private institutes simply categorizing them as Private Schools and Colleges. These institutes are not covered under grants from Central Education Cess, even for monthly salary of teachers. Also, many teachers died or retired without getting a single penny from Government after dedication of long 20 to 25 years of service.

I urge upon the Government to extend financial support to these non-commercial public institutes under a special central scheme.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Thupstan Chhewang - Not present.

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**14.10 hrs.**