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Title: Need to enlarge the scope of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Madam Speaker, I thank the UPA Government for introducing the flagship programme, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and for enacting the Right to Education Act.

Under the SSA, as we all know, since 2010-11, the Government is providing text books and two pairs of uniforms for the poor children belonging to the SC/ST and BPL families. I also thank the Government for enhancing the allotment of funds by 48 per cent. This reflects the concern of the UPA Government in providing free and compulsory education to the children. These children are now feeling that they are getting education by way of equal facilities.

The Government is providing Rs. 200 including stitching charges for two pairs of uniforms per year. In this way, they are providing business to the Government-controlled textile companies.

However, I want to submit for the kind consideration of the hon. HRD Minister to enhance the uniform cost including stitching charges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 in order to provide quality uniforms to these boys and girls.

Uptill now, free uniforms are being provided to boys and girls of the Government schools, Municipal Schools and Zilla Parishad schools.

I request the Government to extend this facility to the aided schools also. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, 3335 schools are functioning under the aided scheme. There are nearly 44 lakh children studying in these schools. They also belong to the poor families.

I submit to the Government, through you, Madam Speaker, to cover not only these children who are studying in Andhra Pradesh but also those children across the country for providing two pairs of uniforms every year.