

me...(Interruptions). The answer was bigger than the question...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Bihar is also there in India. There is shortage of electricity in Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 283. Shri Jang Bahadur Singh Patel.

Nothing will go on record except what Shri Patel speaks.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janardhana Reddy, that is why I have allowed a Short Duration Discussion. Please take your seat.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Every time ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed a Short Duration Discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Please listen to me, since long I have raised my hand.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except what Shri Patel speaks, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janardhana Reddy, please take your seat. I have already allowed a Short Duration Discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except what Shri Patel speaks, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, this is too much. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Patel speaks.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, please take your seat. This is not good. You are unnecessarily wasting time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please have order in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please fix the time for it

MR. SPEAKER : I will do it. Shri Jang Bahadur Patel.

[English]

Budgetary Allocation to Education Programmes

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*283. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

SHRI A. F. GOLAM OSMANI :

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

(a) Whether the budgetary allocation for the operation Blackboard and Adult Education Programmes has been reduced in the 1998-99 Union Budget;

(b) if so, the allocation made for the said programmes in the last two years;

(c) the quantum of allocation not utilised out of these during this period;

(d) the reasons therefor, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(e) whether in this connection attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Crucial education programmes suffer reduction in budgetary allocation" appearing in the Times of India, dated June 8, 1998;

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

(g) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) For the scheme of operation Blackboard (OB),

the allocation for 1998-99 has been retained at the same level as for the previous year. The allocations and expenditure under the scheme of operation Blackboard in 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows:

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
(Figures in crore rupees)		
1996-97	279.00	291.47
1997-98	304.00	299.00

Expenditure during 1996-97 was Rs. 12.47 crore more than BE and in 1997-98 it was Rs. 5.00 crore less than BE. The revised estimates for 1997-98 was reduced to Rs. 301 crores of which Rs. 2 crore on media and publicity could not be utilised.

The budgetary allocation for adult education programmes in 1998-99 is Rs. 93.97 crores which is Rs. 33.03 crores less than previous year. The allocation and expenditure in Adult Education programmes in 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows :

	Allocation	Expenditure
1996-97	224.50	103.12
1997-98	127.00	79.74

The revised estimates for 1996-97 and 1997-98 were reduced to Rs. 112.16 and Rs. 81.42 crore respectively. These could not be fully utilised due to emphasis on consolidation instead of expansion of Total Literacy Campaigns, non-availability of State Governments' commitment to the Scheme of Continuing Education and the decision to transfer the Scheme of strengthening of Administrative Structures to State Governments.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) While the position in regard to construction of classrooms and unspent balances with States under operation Blackboard is partially correct, the figures regarding expenditure in 1997-98 are incorrect. The remedial steps taken in this regard include regular review of different aspects of the programme, decentralisation and flexibility in procurement procedures of teaching learning equipment and better coordination with Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment in regard to flow of JRY funds for construction of classrooms. On the basis of clarification provided by this Department, the newspaper published an article on 22 June, 1998 giving the correct position in regard to budgetary allocation for OB in 1998-99 and utilisation of funds by States.

While the facts regarding budgetary allocation for Adult Education Programmes are correct, information relating to districts covered and learners is out dated. Currently, the Literacy Campaign cover 447 districts and 68.57 million persons have become literate, not 401 districts and 53.19 million as indicated in the article. The remedial measures in Adult Education include rigorous system of monitoring of

literacy campaigns, sensitising Panchayati Raj representatives to ensuring mass participation in literacy programmes, transparent and more effective evaluations, decentralisation of financial and administrative powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities.

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Mr. Sepaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has not given any details regarding the budget allocation made for the year 1998-99. Rs. 304 crore were allocated for operation Blackboard in the year 1997-98, out of which Rs. 299 crore were spent. In 1998-99, only sixty lakh rupees have been allocated for this scheme, however this has not been mentioned in the budget for 1998-99. One of reasons given for the reduction in the allocation is that some States have not utilised the entire amount allocated earlier. Hence they already have funds. The States have adequate funds for arrangement of study material. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to whether any action will be taken against the States which have not utilised the entire allocation and whether some more programmes are proposed to be formulated to ensure the success of this scheme.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, Hon'ble Member has asked as to whether the allocation made for the adult education programme for the last two years has been reduced now. The answer to that question is also clear in the reply given. Rs. 93.97 crore have been allocated for adult education in the year 1998-99.

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : I was enquiring about operation blackboard.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Operation Blackboard is a part of that. Your question pertains to both the programmes—Operation Blackboard and Adult education.

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : I shall put my supplementary regarding adult education later on.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You have put a question regarding reduction of funds and you have given the reply yourself that many States have not fully utilised the funds. As regards operation blackboard...

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : You have stated that I should go through the newspaper dated 22nd of June. From where shall I get the newspaper dated 22nd June?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that the report given in the newspaper dated 22nd June is factual, whereas the report given in the newspaper dated 8th of June is incorrect. It is clearly mentioned in the newspaper dated 22nd June:

[English]

"The programme considered crucial for realising the Government's goal of universalisation of elementary education by 1999 is also languishing. A total of Rs. 135 crore was earmarked for it in the 1997-98 Budget, but less than Rs. One crore was spent. Consequently, only Rs. 60 lakh has been budgeted for this scheme in the 1998-99 proposals."

[Translation]

Further, it has been mentioned—

[English]

"The programme has provided enough money, Rs. 2,100 crore, in its decade long existence for the conversion of about 1.5 lakh single-room schools to dual-room and dual-teacher ones, with around 5.2 lakh schools given teacher and reading material.

With a high fund utilisation rate, by State Governments, of over 80 per cent, the programme has escaped the treasury's axe, with spending for the current year, in 1998-99, pegged at over Rs. 300 crore, a rise over last year's provision."

[Translation]

We have made adequate provision in the budget for all such programmes as Adult education, Operation Blackboard and continuing education. Some States which have not utilised the funds, have been instructed to utilise them properly. Arrangements have been made for monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and this work is being undertaken through the agencies outside the district. Apart from this, the data furnished by the State Government is being evaluated at national level through agencies. Thus proper arrangement will be made for running the programmes smoothly. The literacy programme and its components will not be diluted under any circumstances.

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Sir, adult education programme has been successful in some States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Nothing has been achieved...(Interruptions)

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : The programme has been unsuccessful, infact, it has been a total failure especially in Hindi Speaking States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any efforts are being made to bring these States at par with other States by launching a special campaign or providing more funds for them.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, Hon'ble member has drawn the attention towards a very important fact. These are the States which had a very low rate of literacy and the literacy rate among especially women was very low. Hence there is a need to make special effort with regard to these states. The Government has taken special steps to promote literacy and especially women literacy. You will be pleased to know that the rate of literacy among women is rising gradually. This time the government has made a provision to provide education to women free of cost upto graduation level. The government is fully attentive in this regard. I would also like to inform you that in some states, textbooks are provided to women and children free of cost so as to improve the literacy rate in these areas. Such areas as Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh lag behind in this regard. I am pleased that the government of Rajasthan has taken

special steps in this regard. The literacy rate is rising there. I hope that such steps will be taken in other states as well. The meeting of Ministers of Education from the states is scheduled to be held in the month of August. This issue will be taken up earnestly there.

SHRI A. F. GOLAM OSMANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to put a question to Hon'ble Minister. Under this scheme, the primary school should have five rooms and the schools providing education upto class VIII should have separate room for each class. Is it true that village Hudla, Jatwara and Khuri falling under District Kota of Rajasthan have such schools which have only one room. There are no rooms for seating the children. There are no educational aids. Jute mats are torn and the ceilings are damaged. Sir, the funds released under operation Blackboard for the last eight years have not been utilised properly. Will the Hon. Minister get a survey conducted in these backward areas? Village Hudla which is situated between two rivers does not have drinking water for children. Will the government provide resources in such areas after conducting the survey? It is clearly mentioned in your announcement regarding development of remote areas that resources will be provided there after conducting the survey and a separate room would be provided for each class. You can see the position under operation blackboard. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister whether a survey will be got conducted in the rural areas to materialise such plans?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, under Operation Blackboard, the schools having only one room are given assistance by the government for building another room. Provision has been made for providing education, all the equipment and for achieving total literacy. The schools having only one teacher are given financial assistance by the government to recruit another teacher so as to educate the children properly. If the initiative is taken for recruiting the third teacher, the financial assistance is given for that purpose also. As regards the issue of villages mentioned by you, if you point out all the shortcomings in writing, I shall get an enquiry conducted through the government of Rajasthan and convey the factual position in this regard.

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, the time is very short. The answer given by the hon. Minister presents a dismal picture so far as our literacy programme is concerned. The answer shows that in two years, namely, 1996-97 and 1997-98 Rs. 175 crore remained unspent. I want a straight answer from the hon. Minister. Which are the States responsible for doing this and who are the officers responsible for not spending Rs. 5 crore for Operation Blackboard and Rs. 170 crore for Adult Education? I also want to know what steps have been taken in this regard. The country's position is that 50 per cent of the population is illiterate. Will you answer quickly?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, the exact Statewise information about which States have not been able to spend the amount is also not available with me today. I will collect it and inform you. But you see that the programme of Adult

Education, Operation Blackboard and continuing education have shown enough incentive and momentum.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This programme is a total failure.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It may be a total failure in certain States or in certain pockets. But there are certain very good features of this scheme also. Till now, 5.23 lakh primary schools have been covered and 1.49 single teacher schools have been converted into dual teacher school.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I am sorry Mr. Minister. Please answer who are the officers responsible. The taxpayers money worth Rs. 175 crore was not spent for our education and for the education of our children in the villages.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The schemes are implemented by the State Governments. In these areas, the officers are appointed by the State Governments. If you can give me a certain instance of any officer not doing his duty, I will inquire into it. Otherwise, this information will have to be collected...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I am not working in your Department. Why should I give the information about any officer concerned. First, the answer should be given. This is very serious...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shri Panja, this scheme is running for the last so many years. I am responsible for what has happened in the last three months and odd days only...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's statement.

Statement-I

Village Public Telephone Programme targets & achievements of VPT Programme from 1994-95 to 1997-98 since National Telecom Policy, 1994

Telecom Circles	Total Target from 1994-95 to 1997-98 after National Telecom Policy 94	Total Achievement from 1994-95 to 1997-98 after National Telecom Policy 94
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	634	196
Andhra Pradesh	13400	8806
Assam	12900	8250
Bihar	39964	10069
Gujarat	9000	5182
Haryana	4220	3244

* Not recorded.

(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: In these three months and odd days, the Government has taken very serious steps about it. About what happened for the last ten years, I would say that the responsibility lies on the Members sitting opposite side.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Mr. Minister, thank you.

Public Telephones

*284. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any targets have been fixed by the Government to provide public telephones in each and every village of the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made vis-a-vis these targets; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Department of Telecom has fixed targets to provide Village Public Telephone (VPT) in all villages of the country.

The State-wise target fixed and the achievements thereof from 1994-95 upto 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement—I.

The target for 1998-99 is shown in enclosed Statement—II.