

of a continuous nature. The results are achieved over a period of time and not quantifiable over a shorter period.

Financial Help to Indigent Artists

*380. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Culture has introduced a system of providing financial help to the indigent artists; and

(b) if so, the number of such artists provided with financial assistance during the last three years and the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir. The Department of Culture is operating a scheme of Financial Assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents.

(b) The number of artists covered under the scheme is 657 in 1995-96; 634 in 1996-97 and 633 in 1997-98.

Scheme provides for an assistance of Rs. 1,500/- per month to the artiste.

National Policy for the Empowerment of Women

*381. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the draft National policy for the Empowerment of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States included in the 50 million dollar project for Rural Women's Development and Empowerment;

(d) whether the State of Maharashtra has not been included in the said project; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) A draft National Policy for the Empowerment of Women has been finalised and is awaiting approval of the Government.

(c) The proposed Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project (RWDEP) covers certain areas in the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) The six states selected are a good mix of states (Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) with very low status of women and states (Gujarat and Karnataka) which are comparatively better off.

Assistance to NGOs for Adult Education

3643. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

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

(a) whether some Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are working for the promotion of Adult Education in the country;

(b) if so, the name and the location of such NGOs, Statewise;

(c) whether the Union Government and international organisations provide assistance to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement showing the details of Voluntary Agencies working in the field of Adult Education programme in the States and the amount released to them during the last three years under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies in Adult Education is enclosed at the Statement I and II. The Projects are funded by the Centre on 100% basis under this scheme. Since the NGOs are provided 100% financial assistance by the Union Government under this scheme, no assistance from States and International Organisation is needed by NGOs for such Projects.

Statement-I

List of Voluntary Agencies which have been released funds during the year 1995-96

Name and address of the agency	Amount sanctioned (Rs.)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
1. Andhra Pradesh Open School Society SCERT Campus Near Lal Bahadur Stadium, Hyderabad	8583750
2. Seva Mandir, Hindupur, Distt. Anantpur, A.P.	259000 259000