

[Translation]

Ban on Donation to Private Schools

2113. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:
 SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
 SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
 SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY:
 SHRI C.D. GAMIT:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to ban the large amount of donations being taken by the private schools in Delhi at the time of admission of children and also to do way with practice of parents' interview;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the objective of providing education to all is fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government of N.C.T. of Delhi have informed that the provisions of Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973 do not debar the Managing Committee of a school/society to accept voluntary donations. However, the Directorate of Education has already issued directions that voluntary donations must not be connected with the admission of wards, in keeping with the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

The Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973 do not provide for interview of parents at the time of admission of the children and as such Government of N.C.T. of Delhi have not issued any direction in the matter.

(c) Government has introduced in Rajya Sabha in July, 1997 Constitution (83rd Amendment) Bill, 1997, to make right to free and compulsory education for children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, a fundamental right.

With a view to revitalising the Primary Education System and to achieve the objective of Universalisation

of Primary Education, the District Primary Education Programme with a specific focus on the girls education, education of the socially deprived, working children and children with disabilities has been launched in 1994. The programme presently covers 163 educationally backward districts spread over 14 States. Further expansion of the Programme in about 50 Districts is in the pipeline.

With the objective of providing education to all, Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi is providing Free Text Books to all students of Primary Level and Uniform Subsidy in Cash to those students whose parental income is Below Minimum Wages Act of Delhi. The girl students from rural areas are provided Free Transport facility in addition to Cash Stipend on passing Middle Class and Secondary Class.

[English]

Mother Care Scheme

2114. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 500 sanctioned under Mother Care Scheme is properly reaching the mothers in time during delivery period;

(b) if so, the number of mothers benefited during 1998, State-wise;

(c) the details of fund sanctioned and utilised by each State, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide this assistance to the mothers in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) which is a component of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a sum of Rs. 500 is given to expectant mothers belonging to households living below the Poverty line upto the first two live births provided they are 19 years of age and above. The District level implementing Authorities are required to ensure that the maternity benefit be disbursed in one instalment 12-8 weeks prior to delivery. While timely disbursement is to be ensured, the maternity benefit may however, be disbursed to the beneficiary even after the birth of the child.