

posts were also included in it. Thus the number of Central School was increased. If a local board State Government or a voluntary organisation recommends opening of a Central School in view of the local problems the same can also be considered.

[English]

Allocation of Funds for Adult Education Programme

*345. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the adult education programme during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the amount spent for adult education programme in Gujarat so far;

(c) the total number of persons covered under the programme during the period;

(d) the target fixed under the National Literacy Mission Programme for the Eighth

Plan; and

(e) the amount likely to be allocated for the purpose for Gujarat and the country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The total budget allocation for the Adult Education Programme during VII Five Year Plan is Rs. 549.04 crores i.e. Rs. 353.17 crores in the Central Sector and Rs. 195.87 crores in the State Sector.

(b) The amount released by the Central Government to the State Government and various agencies engaged in adult education in the State of Gujarat during the first four years of the VII Five Year Plan was Rs. 14.81 crores.

(c) The total number of persons enrolled in the adult education programme by various agencies during the first four years of the VII Five Year Plan was as under:—

Enrollment in Adult Education

Sl. No.	Year	India	Gujarat
1.	1985-86	66,53,375	3,33,352
2.	1986-87	81,59,348	4,31,134
3.	1987-88	83,10,495	4,13,289
4.	1988-89	87,53,688	7,19,738
Total :		318,76,906	18,97,513

(d) Subject to availability of funds, it is proposed to cover approximately 65.50 million adult illiterates under National Literacy Mission Programme during the VIII Five Year Plan. This includes backlog of about 15.50 million adult illiterates of the current Five

Year Plan.

(e) The amount which will become available for the programme would be known only after the VIII Five Year Plan has been finalised.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Is it a fact that funds allocated for adult literacy programmes were used by certain States for other measures; if so, which are the States that have used these funds for other works; and what steps has the Government taken?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is a very general question that has been put to me, about the funds having been misused by the States. (Interruptions) I would have certainly concentrated on it, if the question were directed with reference to a particular State or a particular organization. But I must submit that with reference to the money that has been granted for the promotion of the adult education programme; I cannot say with confidence that every paisa has been used in the proper form. I am aware that in some respects, the money has been misused. I am also aware that in some respects, there are organizations which were misusing that money. I do not deny that factor; but the fact remains that the Central Government, through the State Government officers and our own officers—apart from requesting certain social workers and also the responsible persons in the voluntary organizations—have been requesting for the monitoring of the working of adult education centres, be they run by the voluntary organizations or some special boards or even on behalf of the governmental authorities. So, while I can make a general observation, it is not possible for me to specifically refer to a particular State or to a particular organization, in the context of the question that has been asked.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: My second supplementary: After a general survey, it is found that this programme has not been proving very popular with the beneficiaries, especially the women beneficiaries, due to the lack of job opportunities involved in this programme. If this is so, and if the Government has made a survey, is the Government taking any steps to further popularise this programme by giving some new incentives to the beneficiaries?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I do not think it is possible for us to provide the incentives

to the beneficiaries. It is unfortunate, but it is a matter of reality that it is only 36% of the country's population which is literate. That means 64% of the population still remains illiterate. If it is a question of providing incentives to the beneficiaries, who would be 64%, then it would be highly difficult. But the point that has been raised by the hon. Member is with reference to the non-popularity of the scheme, having regard to the nexus with the employment opportunities which we have made; I would like to tell him that we have been making efforts to see that wherever the Preraks, Project Officers and the Assistant Project Officers are appointed, the Preraks were getting practically nothing. That position has been improved a little, by our providing them with Rs. 200—this being a matter where a Prerak has got to take care of a Centre, and has got to work there for about 2 to 3 hours. Within the resource constraints... (Interruptions)

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: May I interrupt? There is a suggestion that along with the literacy classes, there are certain project laid down for teaching some crafts to men and women. There are some suggestions that if both of these are clubbed together, more categories of people would be willing to come to the literacy classes.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I appreciate that point. I think, apart from the literacy classes, if literacy classes could be meshed with some crafts, with local crafts, training to the beneficiaries of the programme itself, these are also under consideration. We are working out the details. But I was concentrating for the present on the adult literacy programme itself thrust of the question. The suggestion has been engaging the mind of the Government; and in some places, with the association and cooperation of certain local organisation, be Governmental or otherwise, we have been trying to give a fillip to the entire adult literacy programme in this respect also. But the larger question with respect to employability of the persons, as I was trying to say, has certain difficulties for the obvious reason that the Department has been facing the resource constraint. Within

the resources available, whatever best could be done, the Department is trying to make efforts.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:

The hon. Minister has accepted that the percentage of literacy is still very low. There are two schemes: one is universalisation of elementary education; and the second is adult education, which the Government has introduced. They are thinking very seriously to popularise them so that the percentage of the literate persons may be increased. But I understand that the hon. Minister might be aware of the fact that in spite of extending financial assistance, cooperation, guidelines to the various State Government, in spite of importing paper exclusively and specifically for preparing the material for adult education, the State Governments are not making those papers. This scheme is being hampered, is not getting a momentum because of the lack of material required for teaching, particularly for adult education. What steps is the Government contemplating to see that the paper shortage is not coming as an impediment in the way?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I appreciate that this scheme has been facing quite a lot of difficulties. While efforts on the part of the Government of India have been to give a thrust to this scheme, we are convinced that if the population of this country is not a constraint, many an evil that persist in the society will vanish. We have been trying to impress upon the different State Governments that these programmes must be taken up not only on a priority basis but as *sine qua non* for the very progress itself. I would not like to blame a particular Government in this regard, but, on the part of the Central Government, we have been monitoring with each and every State in the sense to goad them, to guide them, to push them for the purpose of seeing through the success of the programme. Well, the hon. Member has referred to paper shortage being made a cause for affecting the programme itself. In fact, it has not really come to my notice. Actually, I must plainly confess about it. I would be very grateful to the hon. Member if he is referring

to a particular State so that I could take it up. But this has not come specifically to my notice that in a particular State because of the paper shortage this programme is running into troubled water. I would really appreciate if the hon. Member conveys to me which State and where this is happening so that I can certainly take it up.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Through you, I would like to know the grant for adult education given to West Bengal and the number of people covered, particularly women of the State.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I am really sorry because, this question was a general one, but confined to Gujarat. I see the point of the hon. member from West Bengal that she would like to know as to how much money has been given to that State and the beneficiaries under it. I do not have the specific details at this moment. I would lay it on the Table of the House, or will write to her giving the information, separately.

[Translation]

Restrictions Imposed by Nepal on Trade in Indian Currency

*346. **SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH:**
DR. B.L. SHAILESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has proposed in their 1989-90 Budget presented to their Rashtriya Panchayat to introduce restrictions in trade with India in Indian Currency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.