

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

Voluntary Organisations

294. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) the number of Non-Government Voluntary Organisations which were paid grants during the last three financial years;

(b) the total amount disbursed as grants to such organisations during the above period;

(c) the number of these organisations from whom utilisation certificates (duly audited) have not yet been received by the Government;

(d) whether many of these voluntary organisations have become non-existent after receiving the grants;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the findings thereof; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The Department has provided financial assistance of approximately Rs. 90.47 crores to 4145 Voluntary organisations during the last three years in the following major sectors as :

Sl. No.	Name of Sector	Amount (in crores)
1.	Elementary Education	56.16
2.	Secondary Education	5.26
3.	Adult Education (Literacy)	21.00
4.	Development of Language	8.00
5.	Book Promotion	0.05
		(approx.) 90.47

(c) to (g) Schemes generally stipulate pre-section scrutiny of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). There are inbuilt mechanisms for appraisals of proposals from various agencies prior to sanction and subsequent monitoring. Besides, there is a provision for inspection by Central and State agencies and utilisation certificate for earlier grant is insisted upon before release of fresh grants; whenever the performance of the NGO is found not satisfactory, the financial assistance is discontinued. Information on the exact number of the organisations from whom utilisation certificates are pending is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Distribution of Milk Powder

295. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to distribute Milk Powder in the rural areas by procuring it from the foreign countries at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the names of the States in which the Government are contemplating to distribute the Milk Powder; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) to (c) Government are not contemplating to import milk Powder, Government have liberalised the import of Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) by bringing it under Open General licence and by abolishing the import duty on it.

[English]

Doctors under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

296. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI ASHTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent judgement of Supreme Court bringing Doctors under the Purview of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the ruling made by the Supreme Court in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the impact of judgement on the medical profession and common people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) to (d) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, services of any description including medical services if rendered/availed for any consideration are covered under the Act. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its recent judgement have upheld the provisions of the Act.

Forest Fire in Uttarakhand

297. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state that :

(a) the loss due to fire in 931 sq. Kms area of forests of Uttarakhand; and

(b) the precautionary measures being taken to avoid such out-break of fire in future?