

Regarding non release of funds for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for Kerala

ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH (ATTINGAL): Sir, I would like to raise an issue regarding non-release of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) funds to the State of Kerala. The Union Government is withholding SSA funds for not signing MOUs for the implementation of PM SHRI Scheme in the State.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan is the key programme intended to achieve universal elementary education which guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14. The delay in the Central release of SSA funds has created issues in school infrastructure improvements, teacher training, and student-support activities. Opposition-ruled States like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are also facing the same issue. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education has recommended the Union Government to resolve the issue and release the pending funds to the States. The total pending funds amount to over Rs. 859 crore for Kerala, Rs. 2,152 crore for Tamil Nadu and Rs. 1,000 crore for West Bengal. The Union Government should ensure that none of the States are placed in a disadvantageous position for not accepting the NEP 2020 or the PM SHRI Scheme.

I request the Government to consider this issue on priority and take necessary action at the earliest