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Title : Need to release funds for development of Schools in Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council area of Darjeeling, West Bengal.

SHRI D. NARBULA (DARJEELING): The Government of India in its Budget 2006-2007 has allocated a huge amount for the establishment and development of schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for helping the poor and especially the dropouts. In the Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council (DGHC) area of Darjeeling also fund was allotted @Rs. 4.50 lacs each for 102 schools and Rs. 1.50 lacs for 32 Schools. The total amount for the development and establishment of schools in the DGHC area under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan this year was nearly Rs. 7 crores. But I am constrained to state that this sanctioned amount for these 134 schools never reached the intended destinations but, the official execution report was completed in stipulated time. The truth came out when the Department concerned asked for utilization certificates from the said 134 schools individually. The headmasters of primary schools and members of the Committee were taken aback by the query of funds, which they never received. They started running from pillar to post trying to prove their innocence in the matter. FIR has been lodged against some persons and customary hunt for the culprit has started and as usual it will take its own course.

In the light of the above, all that I intend to emphasize is that the needy schools and their students should not, at any cost, be allowed to suffer due to fault of officials. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for HRD to kindly look into the matter, release fund for those 134 schools and also take stringent action against those corrupt officials who are responsible for embezzlement of this huge amount.