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Title: Need to upgrade the ITIs into centers of excellence.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter of public importance relating to the upgradation of ITIs into centres of excellence in the State of Assam and North-Eastern Region.

I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Central Government that the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of establishment of new ITIs and upgrading of existing ITIs in the North Eastern States was started in the financial year 2001-02.[\[r89\]](#)

Initially the Scheme was valid up to 31st March, 2004 but later on it was extended up to the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, that is, up to 31st March, 2007.

Under the North-Eastern Scheme, 22 new ITIs are to be established with an outlay of Rs. 49.88 crore, and strengthening/modernization of 35 existing ITIs to be carried out with an outlay of Rs. 49.02 crore. There is a provision of Rs. 1.10 crore for providing technical assistance also. Thus, the total outlay under these schemes comes to Rs. 100 crore. This Scheme has been designed to create and develop infrastructure for training of youths in these States in identified skill areas as per the demand pattern of this region in order to increase their employability.

During the five years of implementation of the North-Eastern Scheme, up to 31st March, 2006 total funds amounting to Rs. 85.75 crore have been sanctioned and Rs. 65.12 crore have been released so far. It seems that the progress of implementation of this Scheme is relatively slow in the North-Eastern States. The Financial Year 2006-07 is the last year approved for completion of the Scheme, and still about 35 per cent of the allocated funds are to be utilized.

In this context, the Central Government has allotted a new ITI at Dibrugarh for upgradation into Centres of Excellence with the proposed Gas Cracker Unit coming up into the Region. The sector identified for upgradation is the plastic processing sector.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Central Government to immediately release the remaining amount of allocated fund, that is, 65 per cent for the cause mentioned above to the North Eastern States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri P. Mohan.