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Title: Need to provide grant under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan to Odisha Government as per the recommendations of 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has recommended a total grant of Rs. 1016 crore for meeting the shortfall in Orissa's matching share towards Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The grant recommended by 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission is towards a part of the State share of SSA as per the Annual Work Plan and Budget approved for the year. Despite such a recommendation, the Government of India are staking claim to a portion of the grant as centre's share for financing the budgetary outlay towards SSA of Orissa. As a result of this, the Central share of SSA has decreased at the cost of increase in the State's share and thus the State Government is going to lose Rs. 121.55 crore out of the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission grant during the current year.

It may be pointed out that in the context of State's inability to meet the matching contribution towards SSA, the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 1016 crore. If during the five-year period, the Government of India appropriates 65% of the same, it would be highly injudicious as this is not in tune with the recommendation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. This loss would come to Rs. 660.40 crore over the five year period. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to adhere to the recommendation of the 13 Finance Commission and grant the award to meet Orissa's share of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.