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Title: Need to release the Central Government's share towards scheme of providing excellent education to children in Educationally Backward Blocks of Maharashtra.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (PUNE): Central Government has started a scheme for providing excellent education to children in their neighborhood from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard in the 43 Educationally Backward Blocks of Maharashtra. This scheme is on 75:25 sharing pattern and Rs.3.02 crores has been allocated to every school for construction purposes. This cost is based on District Schedule of Rates (DSR) of Central P.W.D. and it is a pre-requisite that the State should construct school building on the basis of State District Schedule of Rates. However, as the D.S.R. of the State Government is higher than that of the Central Government, it was not possible for the State to construct the school buildings within the prescribed limit of Rs. 3.02 crores, besides the State intended to provide excellent educational and other facilities in those schools, hence State submitted a proposal of Rs. 12-16 crores per school, amounting to total of Rs.587.364 crores.

However, the Project Approval Board of the Central Government has rejected the aforesaid proposal and directed the State Govt. to resubmit the proposal as per scheme norms i.e. Rs.3.02 crores per school. Accordingly revised proposal had been sent to School Education Department, New Delhi in May, 2011 and November, 2011.

The total cost of the latest revised proposal is Rs. 129.86 crores, of which Central share is Rs. 97.395 crores. It is not possible to implement this scheme, unless funding is received from the Central Government. Madam Speaker, I, therefore, requests the Minister of HRD to release the entire balance amount of Central Share at the earliest.