

an>

Title: Need to release funds for central aided schemes in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to release various funds of Centrally aided schemes pending due to Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Education Department has not received Rs.4,474 crore from the Centre under various schemes in the last few years. Many education schemes, including post-matric scholarship for SC/ST students had suffered as the State was denied Central funds on the ground of exhausting the budgetary allocations. A sum of Rs.1,547 crore has been pending towards the post-matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes and Rs.27 crore for Scheduled Tribes for over a year. The annual allocation is grossly inadequate. I would request that this amount may at least be doubled this year.

The Union Government has to pay arrears of Rs. 1,312 crore for the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, the 'education for all' scheme to Tamil Nadu. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* aims at providing basic education to children upto the age of 14 and any delay in the release of funds will hit basic education in spite of Tamil Nadu Government's best effort. Under the *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* scheme, which is implemented to provide secondary education, an amount of Rs. 1,558 crore is due to be given to the State. Funds under SSA and RMSA schemes have not been allotted to the State though these projects have been approved by the Project Approval Board. As education is pivotal to the task of nation building, I appeal to the Government to release all the funds due for Tamil Nadu without further delay.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri V. Elumalai.