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Title: Need to double the funds for education sector.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Education is the nation building sector of any country in the world today. At the population growth rate of 1.26%, India is expected to have 34.33% of youth population by 2020. This will ideally increase enrolment in educational institutions at all levels, for which the Government needs to be prepared. On the other hand, while in 2014-15 the Human Resource Development Ministry received almost 6% of the total annual budget, in the year 2017-18 only 3.48% of annual budget has been allocated to the Ministry. Last year the CAG had highlighted non-utilisation of collected cess for secondary and higher education in its report. With growing number of students, a decline of fund allocation to the Ministry that finances education in our country requires attention and correction.

In 2014, our expenditure on public education was barely 2.6% of the total GDP, whereas other developing countries like Brazil and South Africa spend around 5.7% and 6.9% of their GDP respectively on public education. UNESCO reports (2015) indicate that our teacher-student ratio in primary school is as poor as 31.5. The Annual Status of education Report (2017) points out that more than 50% of students in the age group 14-18, struggle with simple division. This calls for not just quantitative improvement of education system in India, but also a qualitative one.

Therefore, keeping in mind the above international and domestic trend, the government must consider to at least double the funds allocation to education sector. These

funds need to be distributed in recruiting teachers, building infrastructure, digitising learning and assessment, and deepen accessibility of education in the country.