

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Mohandas is allowed to lay the whole statement on the Table, for future reference.

**Aid to Women's Schools and Colleges  
in Rural Areas**

**\*878. SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of Government to sanction special aid in favour of the women's schools and colleges, particularly to those situated in the rural area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI K. C. PANT) :** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

A scheme of reimbursement of tuition fee for girls in classes IX to XII to the States/ Union Territories is proposed to be started from 1985-86.

During the Sixth Plan the University Grants Commission has been providing assistance to colleges for developing undergraduate education if the college concerned has at least four departments with a minimum of two teachers in each and a total of at least ten permanent teachers; the overall student-teacher ratio is not more than 30:1 and the college has at least 300 students in degree classes. In the case of women's colleges and colleges located in backward and rural areas, the enrolment requirement was relaxed from 300 to 200.

In addition, for construction of Women's hostels, the Commission has been providing assistance to the extent of 75 per cent of the approved cost against 50 per cent in the case Men's of hostels. The pattern of assistance for colleges in the Seventh Plan is being formulated.

**SHRI N. DENNIS :** The percentage of literacy in our country as per the 1981 Census is 36.23. Among males, the literacy rate is 46.89 per cent, whereas among females it is 24.82 per cent. Percentage of literacy in rural areas is 29.65. Among males it is 40.79 per cent and for females it is 17.96 per cent. In some States, the percentage of literacy in

females is less than 10 in rural areas. For example, in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, the percentage of literacy among women is less than 10 per cent. Sir, it appears that this low rate of enrolment of women in educational institutions in rural areas would hamper the target of universal elementary education by 1990. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal for special assistance and enhanced allotment to remove the wide gap and imbalance and to eradicate illiteracy among girls in rural areas ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** I fully agree with the Hon. Member that women's education is lagging behind in certain States; and that when one sees the pattern of illiteracy, there also women figure prominently amongst sections which have fallen behind. Special efforts do need to be made. It is in that context that three of the schemes have been mentioned in the statement : one, that education for girls is being made free, i.e. no tuition fees will be charged between Classes 9 and 12—i.e. upto Class 12, because it is already free upto Class 8. The other thing is with regard to developing under-graduate education in the colleges, it is given in the statement—I need not repeat it.

The third is with regard to women's hostels. All these three are in the statement. Other than this, special assistance is given for recruitment of women teachers in primary schools, because that facilitates the enrolment of girl students. Then special assistance is given for non-formal education centres specially meant for girls. There, the ratio is much more favourable in the case of centres meant only for girls, as compared to mixed centres. These are some of the measures taken.

I can assure the Hon. Member that the Government is very conscious of the need to assist in the task of increasing the pace of education amongst women who have not been able to take full advantage of the education system.

**SHRI N. DENNIS :** The percentage of allocation of funds for education by the Centre is on the decrease, Plan after Plan. The allocation was 7.2 per cent in the first Plan, whereas in the 6th Plan it is 2.6 per cent whereas in the States, on an average 25 per

of the revenue budget is allocated for the purpose of education. These allocations do not meet the purpose. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether an enhanced allotment would be made for popularizing and propagating education among rural girls, and also other socially and educationally disadvantaged sections of the society ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** I am grateful to the Hon. Member for his support. I think he is trying to convert the converted. He knows whom he has to convert. He has to help me.

**SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :** The percentage of educated rural women, specially among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is very low. It is only 5 per cent to 6 per cent. What steps is Government going to take to increase the percentage of the educated ? Is Government going to establish any women' university just as in Andhra Pradesh; is Government going to support such of the universities in the rural areas, and is it going to provide amenities to the women's colleges and women's schools, where there are no toilets and other facilities to the girls who are specially facing difficulties in rural areas ?

I want to know from the Hon. Minister what proposals he has got to increase the facilities to the rural women, belonging specially to the SCs and STs.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** Government is not proposing to set up any women's universities. Some States have set up women's universities; and they are given assistance in the usual course. But universities are co-educational institutions, by and large. They are meant for girls as well as boys. Girls do take full advantage of education at the university level. I agree with my friend that toilets are also a problem in the schools in rural areas, for girls also. We have a scheme for giving assistance to the States, to make education free up to Class 12 for girls. We have asked those States which will get this money, and which will have something extra, to use that extra money for providing toilets and dresses for girls, etc., in rural areas.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA :**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would allocate

special grants to such colleges in the rural areas of Bihar whose number is very small or negligible.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** The expenditure on education is met by both the central as well as the State Government and assistance can be provided only within those limits.

[English]

**SHRI D. K. NAIKAR :** May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware of the manifesto given by the Congress-I Party during the last State Assembly elections in some States in '85 ? In that manifesto, it has been provided that basic education upto third level will be given free by the Government. In view of the increasing illiteracy is he willing to bring some sort of a legislation to implement that promise of giving basic education at all levels free of cost ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** If legislation could achieve this objective, I will gladly bring this legislation. Some Governments have gone in for legislation, but on that account they will not be able to achieve universalisation of the education. It is not a question of intent or will or lack of law; it is a question of the resources and the determination to get this done. All I can assure my Hon. friend is that we are going to seriously try to reach this target by 1990. I have gone into the matter. There are various difficulties. I do not want to minimize or underestimate them. But we will try in all seriousness to tackle this problem; and I will come before the House once we have gone into this matter deeply enough to discuss in the House exactly what are the limitations and how we are trying to overcome them.

#### Facilities to Passengers

\*879. **SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Reforms Committee in its Report submitted to Government has recommended improving the facilities to passengers;

(b) if so, what are the precise suggestions/recommendations made by the committee in this regard; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to implement them ?