

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:67
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
EDUCATION POLICY FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;SANJAY PASWAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated an Education Policy for compulsory education for all children between the age of 6 and 14 in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the target fixed and achievements made so far;
- (d) the reasons for not achieving the target fixed therefore; and
- (e) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved fully?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 67 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.2.2000 REGARDING EDUCATION POLICY FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION BY SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH AND DR. SANJAY PASWAN.

(a) to (e): Article 45 of the Constitution of India provides for free and compulsory education for all, up to the age of 14 years. The National Policy on Education 1986, as revised in 1991, envisaged that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality will be provided to all children in the age group 6-14 years by the turn of the century.

The Honorable Supreme Court, in the Unni Krishan case 1993, has declared education up to the age of 14 years to be fundamental right. 19 States/UTs already have compulsory education laws.

A National Committee of Education Ministers set up in 1997 under Shri Muhi Ram Saikia had recommended amendment to the Constitution to make elementary education a fundamental right. This has been reiterated in 1999 by a committee of Education Ministers set up under the Chairmanship of Honorable Human Resource Development Minister to suggest the structure for universalizing elementary education in the mission mode. Based on recommendations of the committee the Government proposes to launch the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to bring every 6-14 age child in school/education guarantee center/back to school camp by 2003 and to provide five years of primary schooling by 2007 and to provide eight years of elementary schooling, by 2010.

Though significant improvement has taken place in the elementary education sector with regard to access, retention and quality, the target for universal elementary education has been elusive. The gigantic nature of the problem, ever increasing population, and non availability of adequate financial resources are some of the major reasons for inability to universalize elementary education so far.

As per most surveys upto 1995-96, nearly 70% of the 6-14 age children are attending schools. The position would have further improved in the light of the efforts made under various programmes over the last four years like the national Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, Operation Blackboard, district Primary Education Programme, Non Formal Education Programme, Lok Jumbish and Shiksha Karmi Project and other state level initiatives.