

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4553
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001
83RD CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

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

- (a) whether the Government have received divergent views on the proposed amendments in the 83rd Constitution Amendment Bill from various organisations such as Action India Trust and National Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up a consultative mechanism in place involving the NGOs before the Amendment Bill is introduced during the current session of Parliament; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) : Yes, Sir. Views on the proposed 83rd Constitution Amendment Bill have been received from various organisations including the 'National Alliance for the Fundamental Right to Education'.
- (b) : Major suggestions made by these organisations on the Bill include:
- i) The State must provide free and universal education as a fundamental right for all children upto 18 years
 - ii) Budgetary allocation for education should be increased to 6% of the GDP
 - iii) Provision for educational opportunities should be the sole responsibility of the State
 - iv) Free education should not only include free schooling but also other enabling costs such as books, stationary, uniforms etc
 - v) Certificates should be issued to children on passing 8th standard to enable them pursue vocational courses
 - vi) Quality of education should be emphasised in the Bill
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d): Does not arise.