

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:984
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the interim Government of Afghanistan has sought India's assistance in setting up schools and colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any other assistance has also been sought by Afghanistan; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(d) The government of India and the Interim Administration of Afghanistan have agreed on several areas of cooperation, including in the field of Health, Education, Information Technology, Public Transport, Industry, Energy and Training. The cooperation in the field of Education includes construction of schools. The specific projects relating to construction of schools will be finalized in consultation with the Afghan Interim Administration.

The government is committed to provide humanitarian relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation assistance in post conflict Afghanistan. It is a reflection of our commitment that in terms of financial assistance government has announced a line of credit of US\$ 100 million for Afghanistan. During the Tokyo Ministerial meeting, held on 21-22 January 2002, the government announced an amount of US\$ 1.5 million for immediate utilization by the Afghan government. During the visit of H.E. Hamid Karzai to India on 26-27 February 2002, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced a grant of US\$ 10 million for utilization by the Afghan government.