

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:520  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002  
EDUCATION FOR ALL  
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government have again revised the target date of achieving its goal of education for all;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the main factors responsible therefor;
- (c) whether Government have faced some hurdles in implementing its scheme to achieve the goal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken in this direction?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 520 OF 30.4.2002 ASKED BY SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR REGARDING EDUCATION FOR ALL

(a) & (b) : The Directive Principles of the Constitution of India under Article 45 envisages provision of free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years within 10 years of the commencement of the Constitution.

The Education Commission 1964-66 (Kothari Commission) in its report had recommended that the country should be able to provide five years of good and effective education to all the children by 1975-76 and seven years of such education by 1985-86.

The National Policy on Education, 1968 stated that strenuous efforts should be made for the early fulfillment of the Directive Principle under Article 45 of the Constitution seeking to provide free and compulsory education for children up to the age of 14

The National Policy on Education (NPE-1986), as revised in 1992, also stated that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality should be provided to all children of 6 to 14 years of age before we enter the twenty-first century.

Although considerable progress has been made, the goal of universalisation of elementary education has remained elusive. The rising population in many States, problems of access, low universal enrolment and dropouts continue to be a challenge. This is true especially for girls, children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, working children, urban deprived children, children with special needs and other groups difficult to reach.

The Government has launched the Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in November, 2000 to achieve the goal of universal elementary education in a mission mode by 2010.

The objectives of the Scheme are as follows: -

- All 6-14 age children to be in school/Education Guarantee Centre/Alternate School/ `Back to School` camp by 2003;
- All 6-14 age children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- All 6-14 age children complete eight years of schooling by 2010;
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;
- Universal retention by 2010.

c) to (e) : Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, based on annual work plans approved, has commenced during the year 2001-2002. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan provides for flexible strategies to meet the specific requirements of various regions.