

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003
SHIKSHA YATRA
A.C. JOSE

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that there was a right to education campaign throughout India in the name of Shiksha Yatra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the Government's stand thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) & (b) : A so-called Shiksha Yatra commenced from Kerala in January, 2001, and culminated at New Delhi in June, 2001, with presentation of a memorandum to the President of India. The memorandum, mainly demanded the following:

- Immediate passage of the 83rd Constitutional Amendment Bill and allocation of 8% of GNP on education of which 50% should be kept aside for primary education.
- Establishment of good neighborhood schools, where children of different classes and communities should be offered free, compulsory, meaningful & equal education, with emphasis on girls' education.
- Ban on privatisation and communalisation of primary education.

(c) : A Constitutional amendment to make right to free and compulsory education for children in the age group 6-14 years a Fundamental Right has been enacted, and notified on 13-12-2002. Government has also launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan – a national programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education, which addresses many of the issues raised in the memorandum.