

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4122
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has directed the Government to make elementary education free and bear all the expenditure of the student;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Prime Minister has also directed the Government to extend the aforementioned benefits to the students under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (d) The Government of India is already implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the cooked midday meal programme which inter-alia, include certain components to offset the cost of elementary education. Furthermore, a Draft Free & Compulsory Education Bill along with a report has been submitted to and deliberated upon by the Central Advisory Board of Education in July 2005, which includes the definition of `free education`.