

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2506

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006

FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION TO CHILDREN

Kathiria Dr. Vallabhbai;Mcleod Smt. Ingrid;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has made it clear to the Centre and the State Governments that it was their duty to put children in schools;
- (b) if so, whether they have drawn the attention of the children under article 21A which was inserted in the constitution through an amendment in 2002 making free and compulsory education a fundamental right of children aged between 6 and 14;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there are nearly 100 million children in India who are either out of school or forced to do manual labour;
- (e) if so, the action the Union Government proposes to take to see that central and State Governments provide education to all 100 million children in the country;
- (f) whether any concrete action plan has been prepared by the Union Government after the Supreme Court's direction; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (g) The Supreme Court has recently admitted a Public Interest Litigation, that prays for absolute prohibition of child labour in the wake of the Constitution(86th Amendment) Act 2002, effected in December 2002. The matter is still Sub-judice.

According to an independent Survey commissioned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in July- October, 2005, the number of out of school children, in the age-group of 6-13 years, is estimated to be 13,459,734. In order to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education, the schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal and Kasturba Gandhi Balika vidhyalaya are being implemented by the Government