

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1859
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006
C.A.B. ON FREE & COMPULSORY EDUCATION
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Central Advisory Board constituted on universalisation of Secondary Education and Free and Compulsory Education Bill has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details of the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee;
- (c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations made in the report;
- (d) whether an action plan has been prepared by the Government for the actual implementation of these recommendations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The Reports of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on Universalisation of Secondary Education and the CABE Committee on Free and Compulsory Education Bill were presented and considered at the 53rd CABE meeting held on 14-15 July 2005.

Some of the major recommendations of the CABE Committee on Universalisation of Secondary Education are

- (i) The guiding principles of Universal Secondary Education should be universal access, equality and social justice, relevance and development, and structural and curricular considerations;
- (ii) there has to be a norm for schooling, such norms should be developed for each state with common national parameters as well as state specific parameters;
- (iii) each state should develop a perspective plan for universal secondary education, decentralised micro-level planning should be the main approach to planning and implementation of Universal Secondary Education;
- (iv) Financial requirements for covering the cost of universal elementary and secondary education will form approximately 5.1 percent of GDP and hence the immediate allocation of 6% of the GDP for education and progressive increase in this proportion will be necessary to move towards Universalisation of Secondary Education; and
- (v) the pressure on secondary education is already being perceived and it will not be wise to wait till 2010 when the pressure may become unbearable. Action has been initiated in light of the various recommendations.

The Report of the CABE Committee on Free and Compulsory Education Bill contains the "essential provisions" of the draft legislation envisaged under Article 21 A of the Constitution which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6-14 years. Based on the suggestions and comments received during the CABE meeting held on 14-15th July, 2005, a complete version of the draft legislation was prepared and circulated to the States / UTs. Based on further consultations, a draft Model Right to Education Bill, spelling out broad parameters and features for achieving the constitutional mandate of free and compulsory education has been drafted and circulated as framework to the States / UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon.