

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1861  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006  
CHILDREN INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICT  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether UNESCO in its Global Monitoring Report (GMR) 2007 claiming that children below 15 years in India are involved in armed conflict;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has studied that report;
- (d) the finding facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A map entitled 'Children and armed conflict, 2003' at page 75 of the EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007 indicates India to be a State in Armed Conflict in 2003 with more than 1/3rd of population under 15 years of age. It also indicates that India is a country where child fighters under 15 years of age were reported to be in armed conflict during 2003. The source of the information contained in the map is stated to be Project Ploughshares (2003).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) The matter was taken up with UNESCO at the highest level. A clarification has been received from UNESCO stating that definition of armed conflict vary and that there is no one authoritative list of countries in conflict. It is further stated that the report of the Project Ploughshares includes in the list of countries in armed conflict those countries in which the reported death toll has crossed 1000. UNESCO has further stated that they understand that armed conflict is not a reality in the whole of India and that, therefore, not all children are affected by it. A Note has now been added to GMR 2007 to clarify this fact.