

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3514
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
C & AG REPORT ON SC/ST EDUCATION
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for the year 2007 titled 'Account on Education Development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes' which points out shortcomings in the process of implementation of the policy on universalisation of education and indicates decrease in enrolment rate and increase in the dropout rate among these castes in several States;
- (b) If so, whether it is due to commercialisation of education and lack of social security;
- (c) If so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the enrolment of children of these castes and reduce the drop-out rate; and
- (d) If so, the success achieved by the Government and the future plan in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC & ST children has increased from 85.6% and 88.9% in 2001-02 to 101.83% and 106.80% in 2005-06 respectively at the elementary level, while the dropout rate for SC students has declined from 45.2% in 2001-02 to 33.79% in 2005-06 and for ST students it has declined from 52.3% in 2001-02 to 39.83% in 2005-06 for the primary level of education. These are positive trends.

(c) & (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented in the country to achieve universalization of elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for ensuring coverage of SC/ST children by way of, inter-alia, opening of new schools, community mobilization, flexible schooling for children who are dropouts, older children, special provisions to promote education of girls, free text books, remedial teaching and untied funds for local innovations. The Mid Day Meal Scheme provides for cooked meals to school children in the 6-14 years age group to help retention.