

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6544
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF EDUCATION
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether first contact group meeting of Parliamentarians for Education of UNESCO, South Asia cluster was held recently;
- (b) if so, the discussions held at the meeting;
- (c) the details of countries who participated in the meeting; and
- (d) the follow up action taken by the Government on the decisions arrived at the meeting?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. Representatives from six countries in UNESCO New Delhi Cluster i.e. India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal & Sri Lanka participated in the First Contact Group Meeting of the Parliamentarians for Education in the UNESCO New Delhi Cluster countries held in New Delhi on 24-25 March, 2010.

In the discussions held, the speakers addressed a number of pressing issues. They all highlighted the importance of education as a fundamental right, a driver of development for individuals, communities and nations. Further, the speakers emphasized the importance of gender parity; universal access; and quality education.

They further stressed the important role that Parliamentarians play in achieving Education for All (EFA) and other education related goals as community leaders, trend setters, change agents and monitors, to ensure that government policies and objectives are in line with EFA goals, to meet the needs and interests of the people, and to monitor that resources are distributed efficiently. All the participants renewed their commitment to support the work of the Parliamentarians in the South-Asia cluster.

The 'Meeting of Parliamentarians for Education' was held to provide Parliamentarians within the sub-region with a platform to exchange experiences and find ways of strengthening cooperation amongst themselves and with UN agencies for educational development.