

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:988  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013  
REFORMS IN EDUCATION SECTOR  
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

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

- (a) the present status of the Education Policy;
- (b) whether it is a need of the hour to make sea change in the education system; and
- (c) if so, the details of reforms being made in the Education Policy with regard to improve the literacy rate of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Weaker Sections of the society?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (c): The National Policy on Education 1986 (as amended in 1992), has been the guiding document for the policies of the Central Government in the education sector. In the last twenty years, the education scenario has seen a monumental change with the emergence of several new paradigms, including the rights-based approach to elementary education, the endeavour to extend universalization to secondary education, the attempts to reshape the higher education scenario and its impact on the innovation environment, the emergence of the private sector in higher and technical education and providing an impetus to skill development through vocational education in the context of the emergence of new technologies in a rapidly expanding economy placed in a globalised environment.

In order to meet the challenges emerging in the Education sector, the Government proposes to set up an Education Commission to make recommendations for improvement at all levels of education.

The Government has taken several initiatives like; the enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act, 2009 which provides for right to free and compulsory education upto elementary level to every child in the country; the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan- a programme for universalization of secondary education; the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan- a programme of universalization of elementary education and the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, to aid State Institutions of higher education. Further, in order to improve the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, the following scholarships are also being provided:

- i) The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC/ST candidates are being implemented by the UGC. The scheme is funded by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ii) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) also provide scholarships to SC/ST students admitted to B.Tech, Dual Degree, M.Tech, M.Sc, M.S. and Ph.D. programmes.
- iii) In addition, the Scholarship Schemes for SC/ST students like the Top Class Education Scholarship Scheme, the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme and the Post-Metric Scholarship Scheme to pursue higher studies are also implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.