

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2020
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
UNESCO REPORT ON EDUCATION
Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh

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

- (a) whether the 11th report of UNESCO titled "Education for All" has pointed out shortcomings in the education system of the country;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): The UNESCO's 11th Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR) entitled 'Teaching and learning – Achieving Quality for All' refers to both the achievements and shortcomings of the education system in the country. The main achievements listed pertain to the significant fall in the number of Out of School Children and reducing the gender literacy gap. The main shortcomings pointed out relate to low learning levels amongst children and a large number of adult illiterates. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education to all the children of the age of 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school and the provisions of this Act are being implemented through the Ministry's flagship programme the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for achieving the goal of Universal Elementary Education. Secondary education is being promoted under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and adult literacy through the Saakshar Bharat programme.