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Title : Statement correcting reply given on 29.11.2005 to Unstarred Question No. 1068 by Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, MP, regarding UNDP report 2005 and giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Reply to Part (d) may be substituted as under:-

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to improve the Human Development Index:

National Literacy Mission (NLM) was set up to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75 per cent literacy by 2007. A number of steps have been taken by NLM to enhance adult literacy in the country which include revision of NLM parameters and enhancement of financial norms; integration of phases of Total Literacy and Post Literacy; delegation of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities; enlarging the scope of Continuing Education; strengthening of Jan Shikshan Sansthanas and extending their activities in rural areas; revitalizing State Resource Centres for preparation of better teaching materials and improved quality of training.

In principle approval of the Planning Commission has been solicited to implement the 'Scheme of Universal Access and Quality at the Secondary Stage' with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons.

Several steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the infant and under five mortality rate which includes, strict implementation of Child Marriage (Prevention) Act, Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique

* Placed in Library, See No. LT 3944/2006

(Regulation, Prevention and Misuse) Act; raise awareness on the reduced sex ratio by creating efforts through media campaigns; expansion of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to all blocks of the country with increased component of nutrition and immunization and other health programmes by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.