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Title: Report of UNESCO on illiteracy and school drop outs children in India.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The recent Report released by UNESCO draws an alarming picture of the status of education capabilities in our country – be it gender parity, out of school children or dropout rates. There is hardly any count on which the Education for All Global Monitoring Report lauds India's performance. The Report gives India minus 1.7 points in reducing the number of illiterates among the adults above the age of 15 which places us with countries like Ethiopia and Pakistan. Except for a few bright patches in respect of education in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the Report paints a very grim picture and specially portrays a North-South divide where the Southern States are providing education, have a very low out-of-school dropout rate of 0.5 to 2.1 per cent. The Northern States have an out-of-school dropout rate of close to 8 to 17 per cent. This is a very dangerous trend, Mr. Speaker, Sir, because it can lead to further social unrest in our country.

According to this report, the number of illiterates has only gone down from 27.3 crore to 26.84 crore over the 14-year period from 1990 to 2004. The UNESCO Report also tops India in terms of gender disparity. For every 100 boys out of school we have 136 girls out of school, figures which are comparative to only some Arab States and Yemen and Iraq only fall below India. So, we are number three from the bottom.

MR. SPEAKER : We can have a proper discussion on this.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : But this is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you to raise it.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Therefore, out of 3.4 crore children in our country in the age of 6 to 13, 1.34 crore are still out of school. [\[MSOffice9\]](#)

We sanction between Rs. 11,000 crore and Rs. 12,000 crore in our Budget for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), therefore it is very important to look at not only the outlays, but also the outcomes. The children are our country's future, and it is important for us to be able to equip them with the right kind of education in this country.

MR. SPEAKER: The other day there was a Question also on this issue in this House.

Shrimati Archana Nayak.