

Reservation for Muslim minority community in the OBC quota

4047. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what percentage out of the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs for education, shall be reserved for the Muslim minority community;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) how the education of minority community shall be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Any reservation based on religion is violative of the Constitution. OBC groups within the Muslim community will be entitled to benefits for education under 27% reservation for OBCs.

Alternative education centres under SSA in Uttarakhand

†4048. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Operational Alternative Education Centres under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Uttarakhand, students studying and instructors working therein;
- (b) whether funds have been allocated for operation of the said Abhiyan by the Central Government, for the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) SSA Uttarakhand has reported that 161 Alternative Education Centres are operational, in which 6808 children are studying. The number of instructors working is 204.

(b) to (d) An amount of Rs. 811.27 lakhs has been provided, for interventions for 55743 out of school children in Uttarakhand for the year 2008-09.

Growth of literacy

4049. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that under the National Literacy Mission launched by our former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, literacy rate gradually grew from 44 per cent to 65 per cent in 2001;
- (b) if so, what was the literacy rate till 31st December, 2007; and
- (c) whether the Mission needs to be revamped, especially to focus on girls' literacy to bring it at par with boys' literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Literacy rate of the country has increased from 52.21% in 1991 to 64.84% in 2001 registering one of the highest decadal growth in literacy so far.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The literacy data in the country is collected through decennial census operation conducted by Registrar General of India. According to the last census held in 2001, the literacy rate of the country was 64.84%. Next data will be available in 2011.

(c) A revamped programme to impart functional literacy to non-literate adults in 15-35 age group is proposed to be implemented during the 11th Plan in which special emphasis is given for literacy of disadvantaged sections of the society including women so that the gender gap is to be reduced from 21.59% in 2001 to 10%.

Promotion of self reading habits under SSA

4050. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance and guidance being given to State Governments to promote early self-reading habits among the school children, as part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(b) the details of States which have set up their own Reading Development Cells, alongwith the number of schools where separate reading rooms were set up during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, promotion of early reading among school children is being supported amongst multiple strategies for enhancement of quality of elementary education. A programme for promoting reading in the early primary grades is being guided by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) wherein workshops and orientation meetings have been held in 11 States during 2007-08. Seven States have initiated activities for early reading under this initiative.

Expenditure under SSA

4051. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08:

(b) the total number of students from minority communities enrolled under SSA, region, gender, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the details of teachers belonging to the minority communities recruited under SSA, religion, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Central funds expended under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were Rs. 5139.75 crore, Rs. 7527.23 crore, Rs. 10848.35 crore and Rs. 11470.96 crore, respectively.

(b) Information on enrolment of Muslim children was collected through the District Information System on Education (DISE) for the first-time in September, 2006, of which the State-wise and gender-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) No separate data on religion of teachers recruited is maintained by the Central Government.