

India's position in UNESCO report

†*396. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the UNESCO report, the position of India has come down at world level during the past years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has fixed a target of achieving 85 per cent literacy rate in the country by 2012;

(d) if so, whether there is any possibility of achieving this target; and

(e) the reaction of Government in this regard and the UNESCO's point of view in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):
(a) and (b) As per UNESCO's Education for all (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2008, India ranks 105th with a composite Education for All Development Index (EDI) of 0.797. India ranked 99th with a composite EDI of 0.789 in the Report for the year 2007 and 101st in the Report for the year 2006 with a composite EDI of 0.741. Thus, even though the rank in the Global Monitoring Report is lower, India has consistently increased its position on the scale of EDI.

(c) No, Sir. The target has been revised to 80%.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Ill-effects of CFLs

†*397. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), being used at homes have been reported to be harmful by the TV and newspapers recently;

(b) if so, the efforts to be made by Government to prevent the use of CFLs, if they are harmful for human health;

(c) whether there is any system for warning or possibility of avoiding such incidents; and

(d) if not, how such news-items got published and the efforts made to clear this confusion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) at home or in any other building is not harmful. However, CFLs contain small quantities of mercury (2 mg to 10 mg) inside which has to be managed with care especially during the disposal of fused CFLs. It is also pertinent to mention that other home appliances such as thermometers and tube lights also contain 40 to 50 mg of mercury. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) has set up a Task Force for recommending safe management of mercury in such situations from a

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.