

[10 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

greater involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions; improvement of school infrastructure through Operation Black Board Scheme; establishment of separate schools for girls; provision of attendance scholarships; free text books and uniforms; exemption from tuition fees; appointment of more women teachers and provision of separate toilets for girls, scheme of alternative and innovative schooling for out of school children and girls, Mid-day Meals Programme and contextually relevant curriculum.

Inclusion of Dogri language in the Eighth Schedule

1747. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dogri had been recognized as an independent Modern Indian Language by the Sahitya Akademi, over a quarter of a century ago;

(b) whether there has been a persistant demand since then that Dogri be included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution; and

(c) if so, when Government intend to introduce necessray legislation for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The whole gamut of including new languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution is being re-looked into for evolving appropriate criteria therefor by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The question of introducing any legislation in this regard would arise only after the criteria are evolved.

UNICEF report on state of the World's Children-2000

1748. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of UNICEF, titled "The state of the World's children-2000", which puts India very much at the rock bottom with regard to survival, development and protection of millions of children;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what concrete steps Government propose to initiate and effectively implement in order to improve the appalling situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India is committed to the welfare and development of this country's children. The Constitution of India has provisions for the protection, development and welfare of children. The National Policy for Children was adopted in 1974 which provides that it shall be the endeavour of the State to provide adequate services to children for their physical, mental and social development. The Policy also provides for a National Children's Board headed by the Prime Minister to act as a forum to plan, review and coordinate the various services to children. India has also acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has formulated a National Plan of Action for Children in 1992 which contains the goals and objectives to be achieved by the year 2000.

The Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development is the nodal Department to guide, coordinate and review efforts of both the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations for the development of children. Other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India are implementing various national programmes and schemes for the development of children which include Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Education, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The programmes include Integrated Child Development Services being implemented by the Department of Women & Child Development since 1975 which delivers an integrated package of basic services for improvement of child care, early stimulation, learning, health and nutrition care. The Department of Women & Child Development is also operating the Balika Samriddhi Yojana which aims to raise the status of the girl child born in families below the poverty line. The Department of Family Welfare is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health Programme since 1997. The Department of Education is implementing the District Primary Education Programme for providing access to primary education for all children. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing the Integrated Programme for Street Children and Integrated Programme for Juvenile Justice.