

Education upto the age of fourteen a fundamental right

*63. PROF. SAURIN BHATTIA CHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent judgement of the Supreme Court to the effect that education up to the age of fourteen is a Fundamental Right; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to cover the unfilled gap among children up to the age of fourteen, regarding enjoyment of this right?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy on Education as revised in 1992 resolves that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality is to be provided to all children upto 14 years of age before we enter 21st century. Towards this end, a disaggregated approach will be adopted through district planning which is being visualised as follows:

(i) In districts in which access and enrolment are high, efforts will be made to bring the remaining children into the fold of school system;

(ii) In all the Total Literacy Campaign districts in which community mobilisation for literacy and education has been successfully planned under the National Literacy Mission programme, a strong intervention will be made through formal and non-formal channels, for a total coverage of all eligible children;

(iii) In the low literacy districts in which the provision of education facilities is not yet satisfactory and the delivery system functions without much community involvement,

efforts to generate awareness and community mobilisation will be undertaken block by block;

(iv) Special emphasis will be given to the expansion of the programmes of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as a feeder and support programme for education and around development of the child; and

(v) In addition, voluntary agencies, academic and research institutions will be encouraged to take up innovative projects and research and evaluation activities involving area-specific planning to ensure that no child remains outside the school system.

Production of foodgrains

*64. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the targets fixed both for rabi and kharif foodgrains during the last three years and this year;

(b) what have been the achievements against these targets;

(c) whether there has been an improvement in the yield of crops both under rabi and kharif during these years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what steps have been taken to increase production of foodgrains; and

(f) what is the buffer stock position and by when will it become satisfactory?