

Education of Dalit Muslims

377. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of steps taken by his Ministry to implement Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for Dalit Muslims; and

(b) the number of schools established and the number of Dalit Muslim students enrolled under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for targeted interventions and focused provisioning for education of Muslim children in the age group of 6-14 years, which, *inter-alia*, includes support to Madarsas/Maktabs recognized by the State Madarsa Boards for transacting regular curriculum. This support includes appointment of teachers, school grant, teacher grant, free textbooks, teacher training. In addition support is also provided to set up Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) Centres for out-of-school children in Madarsas/ Maktabs not recognized by the State Madarsa Boards. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) prioritise admission of Muslim girls. Instruction in Urdu medium is provided in KGBVs set up in minority blocks.

(b) The number of primary schools opened under SSA in the minority concentrated districts in the last four years is 12,618 . The number of upper primary schools opened in the same period is 14,877.

The enrolment of Muslim children at primary level has increased from 1,23,81,057 in 2006-07 to 1,40,70,466 in 2007-08. Likewise, the enrolment of Muslim children at the upper primary level has increased from 35,71,186 in 2006-07 to 43,47,809 in 2007-08.

Education Guarantee Scheme in Himachal Pradesh

378. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 233 centres for Education Guarantee Scheme have been closed in Himachal Pradesh in 2008 because the children studying in these centres have been admitted in Government schools and now these children no longer require these Education Guarantee Scheme centres;

(b) whether according to Government the purpose of these centres has been served in Himachal Pradesh and other children in Himachal Pradesh are not in need of these centres;

(c) if so, the facts on the basis of which Government has reached at this conclusion; and

(d) if not, the other reasons for closing down these centres?

¹Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.