

**Drop-out rate in muslim children**

\*94. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the 13.5 million drop-out children are Muslims;

(b) Government's reaction to this high drop-out rate in Muslim children;

(c) whether it is a fact that 30 per cent of all Muslim children in Bihar are out of school totally; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) Religion wise educational statistics is not being collected by the Ministry. However, as per a National Sample Survey conducted by an independent agency, the Social & Rural Research Institute-International Marketing Research Bureau at the behest of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Government of India, in July-October 2005, of the total children in the 6-14 age group in India, only 1.34 crore were estimated to be out of school, which is 6.94%. Amongst them, 22.5 lakhs were Muslim children which constitutes 9.97 per cent of the total number of Muslim Children in the 6-14 years age cohort. Of these, 6.23 lakhs children were in Bihar.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme and Madarsa Modernization Programme, are some of the schemes being implemented by the Government to improve the educational status of the Muslim children.

**Suggestions of New Mining Policy**

†\*95. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on formulating a New Mining Policy;

(b) if so, by when the same would be implemented;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.