

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government to reduce the dropout rate are:

- Education has been made free for all children between 6 to 14 years.
- Monitoring of attendance by the community.
- Micro planning and household survey to identify the dropouts and reasons therefor.
- Organising retention drives.
- Improving the quality of teaching to retain children in school.
- Organising bridge courses/back to school camps etc. to bring the dropouts back into school.
- Providing cooked midday meal to boost the efforts towards "universalisation of primary education" by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously impacting on the nutrition of students in primary classes.

Total Literacy Programme

664. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The number of study centres set up under the Total Literacy Programme, Statewise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the study centres to achieve the target of educating all by 2015; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Total Literacy Programme is volunteer based and literacy is imparted by the Volunteer Teachers to non-literates. Volunteer teachers impart literacy to learners at convenient locations. The programme is implemented in a campaign mode and does not envisage setting up of permanent study centres.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Open university in the North-Eastern Region

665. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: