

crucial importance in respect of the menace of HIV/AIDS. Two kinds of approaches are being adopted in this regard. Through curricular approach, effort is being made to facilitate and promote incorporation of HIV/AIDS elements in the National Curriculum Framework, syllabi, textbooks, other instructional materials, teaching-learning processes and evaluation process. Through co-curricular approach, activities are being organized in schools in a phased manner to influence attitude, behaviour and skill development focused on HIV/AIDS concerns among students.

(c) Yes, training of teacher is essential for effective transaction of HIV/AIDS elements in schools.

(d) Under NPEP, training programmes are organized for orientation of curriculum framers, textbook authors, material developers and teacher educators and intensive training of master trainers and teachers. A special package of materials 'Adolescence Education in Schools: Packages of Basic Materials' has been published by the NCERT for this purpose. The State Population Education Cells located in SCERTs, SIEs have adapted and translated this package into their respective languages and are using this material in various activities including training.

Eradication of Illiteracy

1043. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the achievement as provided in the National Policy on Education with reference to eradication of illiteracy as well as expenditure on education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, as modified in 1992, envisages that "the whole nation has pledged itself, through the National Literacy Mission, to the eradication of illiteracy, particularly in 15-35 age group through various means, with special emphasis on total literacy campaigns. The Central and State Governments, political parties and their mass organizations, the mass media and educational institutions, teachers, students, youth, voluntary agencies, social activist groups, and employers, must reinforce their commitment to mass literacy campaigns, which include literacy and functional knowledge and skills, and awareness among learners about the socio-economic reality

and the possibility to change it."

As a result of various steps taken by the Government including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Total Literacy Campaign, the literacy rate in 2001 has been recorded at 64.84 per cent. as against 52.21 per cent. in 1991. The 12.63 per cent. points increase in the literacy during the period is the highest increase in any decade. The gap in male female literacy rate has decreased from 24.84 per cent. in 1991 census to 21.59 per cent. in 2001. About 30 million persons have been made literate during the last 5 years and there has been significant decline in absolute number of non-literates from 328.88 million in 1991 to 304 million in 2001.

The National Policy on Education also envisages that the outlay on education will be stepped up to ensure that during the Eighth Five Year Plan and onwards it will uniformly exceed 6 per cent of the national income. However, the allocation and expenditure on education has not so far reached this level due to resource constraints and competing priorities.

National Commission on Education

1044. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government committed to establish a National Commission on Education in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA combine;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has raised objections to the establishment of the Commission on the issue of overlapping of the functions of the proposed Commission with that of the University Grants Commission; and

(c) whether Government propose to model the proposed Commission on the Kothari Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The proposal for setting up a National Commission on Education is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Planning Commission had conveyed its views on the creation of