

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

an Education Commission whose functions and responsibilities overlap with its functions of determining investment priorities and allocation of financial resources, as this could impair their ability to take an overall view and evolve inter-sectoral investment priorities.

(c) No decision has been taken so far.

Vacancies of Principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas

†1045. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the posts of regular principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas have been lying vacant for a long time; and

(b) if so, the number of the posts lying vacant and by when those vacancies would be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) It has been intimated by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan that 76 posts of Principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas are lying vacant as on 6.12.04. Some of these vacancies pertain to period prior to the financial year 2004-2005. Action has already been initiated to fill up the 76 regular vacancies.

National Commission of Education

1046. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CMP of the UPA Government promised for constitution of a National Commission on Education;

(b) if so, what action his Ministry has taken to constitute such a Commission;

(c) whether any discussion in this regard has been held with the Planning Commission;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.