

Education as a fundamental right

† 393. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have brought 86th constitutional amendment for making education a fundamental right to all the children of 6-14 years of age group;

(b) whether Government have notified the same in the Gazette on the 13th December, 2002 by enacting it during the year 2002-03;

(c) if so, whether any Central legislation has been enacted as required for this purpose after the above constitutional amendment;

(d) whether any directives have been issued to the States for making any arrangements under Article 21A of the Constitution; and

(e) the outcome of the action taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act which seeks to, *inter-alia*, add Article 21-A ("Right to Education") to Part III ("Fundamental Rights") of the Constitution has been published in the Gazette of India on 13-12-2002.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) States are regularly addressed to universalise elementary education, principally through proper implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(e) Number of out of school children has declined, and additional facilities are being created for better retention in, and qualitative improvement of, elementary education.

Revitalization of the NEC

*394. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.