

Expenditure on education

2314. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's expenditure on education, as a percentage of GDP, has been decreasing consistently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during 2012-13, education expenditure was 3.1 per cent of the GDP;

(c) whether Government aims to spend 6 per cent of GDP on education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) As per Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government's expenditure on education, as a percentage of GDP, is given as under:—

	At current prices (₹ in crore)			
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16, RE
Education Expenditure	430772	492821	541974	624224
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	9944013	11233522	12445128	13682035
Percentage share of GDP	4.33	4.39	4.35	4.56

(c) and (d) Kothari Commission (1964-66) had recommended that 6 per cent of GDP should be spent on education. The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, had laid down that investment on education be gradually increased to reach a level of 6% of National Income as early as possible. Strategic funding and reforms in the State higher education sector are being undertaken through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). Moreover, Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) has been established under the Companies Act, 2013 to leverage funds from market to finance improvement in infrastructure in top institutions of education. With the devolution of more funds to the States as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission, States are in position to prioritize allocation of funds to education sector.

Joint survey on Out of School Children

2315. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would soon launch an effort to identify the number of out of school children across the country;