

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;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a joint survey would be conducted by the Central and State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has commissioned three independent surveys to estimate Out of School Children (OoSC) in the country. These surveys were conducted in 2005, 2009 and 2014. As per these surveys, the number of OoSC in the age group of 6 to 13 years has gradually reduced from 134.6 lakh in 2005 to 81.5 lakh in 2009 and to 60.64 lakh in 2014.

(b) As of now, no such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given at (b) above.

Finalisation of regulations for universities

2316. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would soon finalise regulations enabling universities with high National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) scores to offer degrees, certificates and diploma courses for non-technical subjects in online mode;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only universities with high NAAC scores would get permission;

(c) whether the University Grants Commission would approve their course structure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development and University Grants Commission (UGC) recognise that autonomy is pivotal to promoting and institutionalising excellence in higher education and that the regulatory framework needs to facilitate better performing institutions towards excellence in higher education. With this objective, UGC has notified the UGC (Categorisation of Universities (only) for Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018.

Under Graded Autonomy Regulations, Universities having NAAC score of 3.51 or above or have received a corresponding score/grade from a reputed accreditation