

Number of children in primary schools

414. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRIMOTILALVORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) at present the number of children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in the country are deprived of education;

(b) whether Government propose to include the education under Fundamental Rights to impart it to the children of age group of 6 to 14 years;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and steps Government are taking to provide this facility to these children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As per latest educational statistics, out of 19.2 crore children in the age group 6-14 years, 15.7 crore children are enrolled in schools.

(b) to (d) The Constitution (93rd Amendment) Bill, 2001, to make education for children in the age group 6-14 years a Fundamental Right, had been passed by the Lok Sabha on 28.11.2001. The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha was also considered and passed by the Rajya Sabha on 14.5.2002 with official amendments in the enacting formula and clause 1 to substitute the word '52nd' to '53rd' and '2001' to '2002'. The Rajya Sabha has returned the amendment Bill to the Lok Sabha.

The amended Bill is pending consideration by the Lok Sabha

Schools for primary education

415. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the fact that according to the Planning Commission the number of

non-school going children in the age group of 6 to 14 years is 80 million;

(b) if so, whether Government confirms this figure;

(c) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of schools or classes required to be introduced in the country for such children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) According to the Draft Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) circulated by the Planning Commission in May, 2001, it was stated that out of approximately 200 million children in the age group 6-14 years only 120 million are in schools. However, as per the latest figures available in the Selected Educational Statistics, brought out by this Ministry for the year 2000-01, out of the projected child population of 19.2 crores in the age group 6-14, 15.7 crores have been enrolled in schools.

According to an estimate prepared by the Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), there would be a requirement of 11.35 lakh additional class rooms in the next 10 years for 100% enrolment (allowing for a class room for every teacher in primary/upper primary schools and a room for the Head Master in upper primary school).

Supreme Court order on mid-day meal scheme

416. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given threat to stop Central funds to State Governments for failing to provide cooked mid-day meals for primary school children;

(b) if so, whether the Court gave its final verdict on this issue on 9th September, 2002;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of State Governments in this regard; and