

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1375

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003

EDUCATION FOR ALL SUMMIT

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

- (a) whether the Government hosted a three-day International Education for All Summit in November 2003;
- (b) if so, the main subjects discussed;
- (c) the total number of countries that participated in the Summit ;
- (d) whether any declaration was made to the effect that children particularly girls had access to free and compulsory primary education by 2015 ; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) and (b) The third meeting of the High Level Group on Education for All (EFA) was cohosted by India and UNESCO during 10-12th November 2003. The main subjects discussed were:

- (i) Review of progress on EFA goals set in Dakar
 - (ii) Action agenda for achieving gender goals,
 - (iii) National planning and policy reform,
 - (iv) International action for support and financing of EFA, and
 - (v) Challenges and opportunities: The path ahead.
- (c) Sixteen.

(d) and (e) The meeting ended with a communique which enjoined on countries to take strategic and supportive action towards achieving gender parity by 2005 and gender equality by 2015, enact legislation for enforcing right of children to free and compulsory quality education, eliminate school fees and reduce other indirect cost of schooling, strengthen teacher competencies, work in partnership with non-governmental and Civil Society organisations and strengthen data collection and monitoring systems. It also called upon donor countries and international agencies to fulfill their commitments made at Dakar and Monterrey and bridge the gap between their current level of support for basic education (US \$ 1.5 billion per year), and the amount needed in external support to reach gender and universalisation goals by 2015 (estimated at an additional US \$ 5.6 billion per year)