

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:514
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006
WELFARE OF CHILDREN IN TENTH PLAN
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the key objectives with regard to welfare of children during the Tenth Plan have failed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Planning Commission and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Institute of Human Development had held consultation in regard to key issues of Children for the Eleventh Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the schemes likely to be carried forward for the Eleventh Plan in regard to children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): It may not be entirely appropriate to say that key objectives in regard to welfare of children during the 10th Plan have failed tremendously. The recently completed Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Plan shows that there has been good progress in achieving some monitorable goals for children. There is reduction in the number of out of school children from 42 million at the beginning of plan period to 8.1 million in September 2004 as a result of enrolment drive launched during the second year of Tenth Plan. Similarly, gender gap in literacy, which started narrowing in the 90s i.e. by coming down to 21.59% in 2001 from 24.85% in 1991, is expected to narrow down further by the end of the Tenth Plan. The total literacy rate has also improved significantly from 52.21% in 1991 to 64.84% in 2001 and it is expected to achieve the Tenth Plan target of literacy rate of 75% by 2007. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has also been on the decline i.e. from 72 per 1000 births in 1998 to 60 in 2003 and is expected to decline further.

(c) : Yes Sir.

(d): The Consultation held on January 18-19, 2006 was basically to get inputs for the Working Group on Children for the 11th Five Year Plan.

(e): The 11th Five Year Plan and the schemes likely to be taken forward for children have not been finalized so far.