

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:260  
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014  
UNESCO REPORT ON EDUCATION FOR ALL  
Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

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

- (a) whether according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report on 'Education for All', there are 57 million children out of schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any targets to reduce the number of out of school children;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the said targets within the scheduled period?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The UNESCO Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR) 2013-14 highlights that the goal of universal primary education is likely to be missed globally, as 57 million children were still out of school in 2011. The report also states that half of these children live in conflict-affected countries. The report also states that India is among the 10 countries who have reduced their out-of-school populations the most in relative terms, and also contributed significantly to the overall reduction in out-of-school numbers.

(c) to (e): As per data on out of school children reported by the States/UT's for 2014-15, an estimated 17 lakh children in the age group 6-14 years are out of school. The State/UT-wise position is at annexure.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid Day Meal programme are major national programmes being implemented across the country to provide access & retention of children in elementary education.