

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 30
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

REVISED CRITERIA OF LITERACY

30. Shri Chavan Ravindra Vasantao:

Shri Manish Jaiswal:

Shri Sudheer Gupta:

Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has revised the criteria for literacy in the country, if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the same;
- (b) whether the Government has set any target to achieve full literacy rate in the country by the year 2030, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/to be taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has held any deliberations with State Governments for achieving the full literacy, particularly with States having poor literacy rate;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government has made any specific scheme for the States lagging behind in literacy rate in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e) : The definition of Literacy in context with ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram is :

“Literacy is the ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension, i.e to identify, understand, interpret and create, alongwith critical life skills such as digital literacy, financial literacy, etc.”

The definition is aligned with the International definition of ‘Literacy’ given by UNESCO. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 refers to Adult Education and Lifelong Learning at para 21.4, which states that:

“Strong and innovative government initiatives for adult education in particular, to facilitate community involvement and the smooth and beneficial integration of technology - will be affected as soon as possible to expedite this all important aim of achieving 100% literacy”.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 is being implemented by the Government of India. The aim of the scheme is to support all the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates across the country and targets all above the age of 15 years who have missed availing formal education. Government of India has continued engagement through written communications, regional conferences, video conferences, regional workshops, and review meetings with States/UTs to assess progress, share best practices, and strengthen implementation strategies of Adult Education Programmes.

35 States/UTs are implementing ULLAS and 1.7 crore learners have appeared in the Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) so far. Four States/UTs i.e. Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa and Tripura have become Fully Literate under ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.
