

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4090

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2005

LITERACY RATE IN THE COUNTRY

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the literacy rate of different States/ UTs ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any gap has been observed by the Government in the literacy rate prevailing amongst male/female alongwith SC, ST, OBC, etc. ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap in the literacy rate alongwith the States identified to be most backward in education ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (d): Literacy rates are compiled and released decennially by the Registrar General & Census

Commissioner of India. A statement indicating the State-wise literacy rates of males and females along with those of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), as per Census 2001 data, is enclosed as Annexure. The male-female literacy gap has reduced from 24.84% in 1991 to 21.59% in 2001. The literacy rate of Scheduled Castes has also increased by 17.28% and that of Scheduled Tribes by 17.5%, as against the overall increase of 12.63% for all categories during the same period. According to the Registrar General & Census Commissioners of India, the literacy data on Other Backward Castes

(OBCs) is not collected by them.

(e): The universalisation of elementary education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010. Two programmes for education of girls at elementary level-the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) have also been launched in the educationally backward blocks of the States to reach out to out-of-school girls, working girls, overage girls who have not completed elementary education and girls from marginalized social groups.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) is entrusted with the target of achieving a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, organizing projects for eradication of residual illiteracy in districts which have substantial number of illiterates, setting up of continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life-long learning to the neo-literates and imparting vocational training to neo-literates through Jan Shikshan Sansthan. With the implementation of these programmes, the literacy rates of females along with that of SCs & STs will improve further. Recently, a special literacy drive for eradication of residual illiteracy in 150 districts, which have the lowest literacy rates in the country, has also been launched. These districts are in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4090 for 20.12.2005 regarding literacy rate in the country

Statement showing the State-wise Literacy Rates of Male/Female, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes