

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:342
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS
Chouhan Shri Shivraj Singh; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the educationally backward districts particularly in minority and SC/ST dominated areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of such districts during the 10th plan period; and
- (d) the target fixed and achieved during the 10th Plan so far and further schemes launched by the Government recently in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 342 FOR 19TH APRIL, 2005 BY SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN AND SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI. REGARDING EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS.

(a) & (b) : 146 districts in 12 States were identified by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in the year 2000 as Educationally Backward Districts (with female literacy less than 10% in the case of SCs/STs and less than 20% in the case of the general category.

The Department of Elementary Education & Literacy have further identified a total of 2656 blocks based on the 1991 census where the female literacy is less than national average and the gender gap is above the national average. Priority will be given to these blocks implementing the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and the National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) component of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme.

Pursuant to the launch of the National Common Minimum Programme, efforts are underway to identify special focus districts on cross matching basis from those districts consisting of areas of (i) Minority Concentration blocks/tehsils, (ii) districts with SC female literacy less than 10%, as identified by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and also (iii) ITDP blocks (iv) Scheduled V and (v) Scheduled VI areas, all the three identified by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Using this list of Educationally Backward Districts as the basis, a list of districts with no institutions from among Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Community Polytechnics, is being finalized.

(c) & (d) : While there are no separate targets for these categories, the major schemes/measures that have been continued in the 10th Five Year Plan include opening of more universities, colleges, engineering colleges, expanding Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in all districts, modifying the schemes of Area Intensive and Madrasa Modernization Programme containing two components namely (a) Infrastructure Development and (b) Madrasa Modernization Development, Relaxing the norms for opening primary/middle schools, providing freeships/scholarships/fellowships, uniforms, stationery, school bags, reservation of seats in admission in educational institutions, relaxation in cut off marks in admissions/appointments, priority to SC, ST concentration areas for District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Mahila Samakhya (MS), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), opening of residential schools, educational complexes in Low Literacy Pockets and Ashram Schools and opening of Hostels for SCs and ST students. Other measures include opening of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, introduction of the scheme of National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) as a component of SSA, remedial and Special Coaching to improve academic skills, preparation of text books in tribal languages, educational complex in Low Literacy Pockets for girls belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. As a result of the concerted efforts of the Central and State Governments, the literacy percentage of Scheduled Castes increased from 10.27% in 1961 to 54.69 in 2001. Similarly, the literacy percentage of Scheduled Tribes increased from 8.53% in 1961 to 47.10 % in 2001.