

MR. SPEAKER: A very good question.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think so.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member that there is detailed description of it in Ayurveda. If we resort to Ayurvedic treatment, I understand that diabetes can be controlled fully. I myself follow the rudiments of this system of medicine.

So far as research on it is concerned, I have already said that research should be conducted on it. Ayurveda is a very ancient science of our country and there is everything for self care in it. I have already said that we will do everything possible after the results of the research is received.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to a question the Government has stated that the incidents of diabetes is less in villages than in cities. I would like to know from the Government whether it knows that 25 out of 100 people in the villages cannot reach hospitals for treatment. They do not have money to meet transportation charges and reach hospitals. Mostly, they depend on quacks and exorsists.

Sir, the fact is that this disease is spreading in the villages more rapidly especially in Adivasi areas and in areas inhabited by backward people. There is no blood bank. There are dozen such areas in Bihar where there are no blood banks at all and where there is a blood bank, it is out of the reach of the villagers. As such, will the Government look into matter and make necessary arrangements so that villagers do not fall victims of diabetes. Besides, does the Government know that the patients of this disease are more in number in villages?

[English]

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Is it necessary for me to reply, Sir?

[English]

### Literacy Rate

\* 290. SHRIMATI BHAVNA  
CHIKHLIA:  
DR. RAMESHCHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) the literacy rates in the country as per 1951 and 1991 census;

(b) whether the rate of growth of literacy has consistently increased;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the rate of growth of female literacy has gone up as compared to male literacy during the last decade;

(e) if so, the factors that are responsible for achievement of female literacy; and

(f) the steps taken to bring the states which are below the threshold level of literacy at the All India level of literacy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SHELJA): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### STATEMENT

#### *Regarding Literacy Rate*

(a) to (c). The literacy rate in the country has continuously increased since 1951 as is clear from the following table:

Year	Literacy rate	Decadal increase in literacy rate
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1951	18.33	-
1961	28.31	9.98

Year	Literacy rate	Decadal increase in literacy rate
1971	34.45	6.14
1981	43.56 (41.42)	9.11 (6.97)
1991	52.11	8.55

Notes: 1. Literacy rates for 1951, 1961, and 1971 relate to population aged five years and above. The rates for the years 1981 and 1991 relate to the population aged seven years and above. The literacy rates for the population aged five years and above in 1981 have been shown in brackets.

2. The 1981 rates exclude Assam where the 1981 Census could not be conducted. The 1991 Census rates exclude Jammu & Kashmir where the 1991 Census is yet to be conducted.

(d) Yes, Sir. The female literacy rate for persons aged 7 and above, increased from 29.75% in 1981 to 39.42% in 1991, registering an increase of 9.67 percentage points.

(e) The important factors which have contributed to an increase in female literacy rate during the last decade include creation of increasing awareness among women about the need and relevance of literacy through print and non-print media, greater emphasis on enrolment and retention of girls in schools through various incentives, appointment of additional women teachers under the Operation Blackboard programme, various steps taken for mobilisation of girls and women and active participation in the programme and more particularly in the districts where campaigns for total literacy have been launched, emphasis given to participation of women in the decision making process in various operations in the campaigns, greater emphasis on women education in the non-formal education programme for illiterates in the age group of 9-14 and organisation of programmes relating to women empowerment and literacy under the programme of Mahila Samakhya and Integrated Child Development Scheme etc.

education non-formal education for dropouts and the National Literacy Mission (NLM) which aims at imparting functional literacy to 80.00 million adult illiterates in the age-group 15-35 by 1995, form part of a larger programme for eradication of illiteracy in the country, with special efforts being made in the educationally backward States/UTs. Efforts are being made to secure progressive increase in coverage of districts in these States/UTs under total literacy campaigns which will also simultaneously ensure mobilisation and participation of girls and women in the literacy programmes.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA (Junagarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, It has been mentioned in the reply that there has been a continuous increase in the literacy rate from 1951 to 1991. Through you Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what are the reasons of such a high fluctuation in the growth rate of literacy as has been shown in the statement. viz., literacy rates for 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991 were 9.98, 6.14, 9.11 and 8.55 respectively and what were the targets fixed for increasing the rate of literacy; whether the targets have been achieved; if not, the reasons therefor?

(f) Universalisation of elementary

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

the figures shown in the statement and to which the hon. Member has drawn the attention of the House explain the position that there has been a sizable increase in percentage of literacy rate, since the literacy campaign has been launched. You have rightly pointed out that there has been no decadal increase in the year of 1971. But if you see the figures of every decade, you will find that there has been a constant increase from 1951 to 1991. The information stalling the reasons can be supplied to you separately.

**SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:** Although there has been an increase in female literacy rate during the period from 1951 to 1991, yet no mention has been made regarding percentage of increase in female literacy rate. I could not get the reply of this point. The Government has fixed a target that the total literacy will be achieved by the year 2000 and the Government has also made attempts to achieve this target under a scheme. I would like to know from the Government, as to what steps have been taken by it to achieve this target and what are the plans therefor.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** As the hon. member has asked about increase in female literacy rate, I would like to inform that it is 9.67 per cent. So far as the target to achieve total literacy by the end of this century is concerned, various measures taken are explained in the reply and I think these are sufficient enough. In addition to, all this if you like to know any other information, you please tell me. I shall definitely try to make it available.

**DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the achievements of National Literacy Mission till now? What are its targets to achieve total literacy in the country? What are the schemes prepared for the purpose? There is need of sufficient funds to implement these schemes. How much allocation has been made for this purpose in the next five year plan?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** Everything has been given in detail in the statement including

the measures taken and to be taken.

**DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:** It has not been mentioned in the Statement as to what are the achievements made by the National Literacy Mission..

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** It is the achievement which has increased the literacy rate. When there is constant increase in the literacy rate and now it is 51 per cent, is it not an achievement?....(Interruptions)

[English]

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please read the reply which is laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** While replying to a supplementary it has been stated that the target of total literacy will be achieved by 2000. But as per the survey conducted by the World Bank, if we continue to carry on the literacy campaign with this speed, the number of illiterates in India during 2000 will be more than half of the total number of illiterates throughout the World. Has the Government paid its attention towards this survey? If so, whether the Government takes this survey report seriously and upto what extent.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** The survey report of the World Bank in regard to the literacy campaign is a separate issue. Nevertheless, in view of the importance of this campaign, the Government has made it's own programme to review the position continuously so that the loopholes of this campaign can be plugged and we hope that we would be able to achieve our target by the end of this century. We would also keep in mind the points raised in the report of the World Bank.

[English]

**SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:** Though increase in the literacy rate as per the percentage is concerned, is quite appreciable, in absolute numbers the number

of illiterates in the country today is more than the total population of the country at the time of Independence. Our changing goals of universalisation of elementary education have turned out to be more of a mirage. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would take steps to introduce some sort of wage compensatory allowance to attract children of the poorest of the poor to come to the schools.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the question on literacy and universalisation of education, though may be complementary to each other, but are not the same thing. The suggestion made by the hon. Member for introducing certain incentives can certainly be taken into account. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are a 'Shikshak

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have understood what I wanted to say.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: May put the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which I wanted to ask hon. Bansalji has already asked it but partly and the reply is also incomplete. It appears that as the expansion of literacy and making the primary education compulsory are on the way of confrontation whereas they should be complementary to each other. Is it not a fact that we are lagging behind in making the primary education compulsory? The required attention is not being paid towards this programme. Adequate resources are not being mobilised for it. Since the expansion on of literacy programme is full of production and that is why more emphasis is being laid on this propaganda. I would like to ask the Government whether it is a correct situation and how far it is correct.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the hon. Member is a fundamental question, keeping in view the entire problem. But I would like to assure him that the Government does not treat the literacy campaign or compulsory education as the substitute of universalisation. Both these are complementary to each other, Keeping in view the above, our campaign for universalisation and literacy is also going on. Our attempts for universalisation of education are not at all less. We are marching ahead in this direction.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The 'teacher Member' now. Let us know that you are a teacher by your question also.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Sir, the national average of literacy stands at 52.4 per cent or something whereas in Bihar it is only 33 per cent. similarly in the case of weaker sections of the society the figures are 21 per cent in the case of Scheduled Castes, 16 per cent in the case of Scheduled Tribes etc. So far as female literacy is concerned, in spite of all the National Literacy Mission and other efforts, it has not improved and it has gone down or I may say it has remained at 10 per cent case of Scheduled Castes and 7 per cent in case of Scheduled Tribes. So far as the minorities are concerned, it is much below the national average.

In view of the above, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures he has undertaken in order to improve the standards of these down-trodden and weaker section of the society particularly in regard to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities because these sections of the society stand at much below national average.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has drawn the attention to two factors. One is the situation in Bihar and the other is the general situation so far as the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and

minorities are concerned. The situation in Bihar is definitely not only encouraging. It is so not only in Bihar but in some other States like Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Orissá. (*Interruptions*) The hon. Member wanted the other kind of figures so I gave the other kind of figures. (*Interruptions*) I know that in these States the literacy mission or the campaign for universalisation of education has not been to the optimum, for various reasons. The State Governments want to go ahead. But there are certain things in which they are not able to overcome the handicaps, as of the moment. I have the assurance of all the Chief Ministers that they will put up the utmost effort in this regard.

So far as the question of minorities, SC/ST, are concerned, the hon. Member is quite correct. Much more effort is needed in a much more pointed way to increase the literacy in these communities and I can assure him that in the new Education Policy there will be special emphasis on increasing the literacy percentage amongst these sections of the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, previously, the Government was running the adult education programme and now it has been initiated in the name of literacy campaign. I would like to know from the Government what type of education is being imparted to the old people under literacy campaign as especially when the children are not studying are not properly. It is the apprehensive of the hon. Members that it is causing wastage of money whether it is in the name of adult education or literacy campaign. I would like to know from the Government whether it has some plans to make education free. Unless the Government makes education free, the target of compulsory education cannot be achieved. Since the education falls under the concurrent list, a meeting of all the Chief Ministers should be concerned and a discussion in this regard should be held. That is why I want to know whether there are some plans for

providing free and compulsory education. Have you any idea in this regard and what steps are you going to take?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as I know, there is already free education, more or less throughout the country, upto 11th standard. So the question does not arise to evolve a new method to make it free. Where there is no free education, there it can be arranged. I have mentioned in my answer about all the attempts being made in this direction.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### Health Care

\*287. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN:  
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita expenditure on health care in India is less than that of other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide better health care facilities to masses; and

(c) the amount allocated in the Eighth Plan for Health and Family Welfare?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIM. L. FOTEDAR):

(a) to (c). No reliable published statistics on per capita expenditure on health care in Asian countries is available. However, the public expenditure on health as a percentage of the GDP is given in the statement.

Whereas health is primarily a state subject, the Centre has been providing interventions thorough financial assistance in all critical areas which affect health services