

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3840  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004  
ILLITERACY AMONG TRIBALS  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether there is a rampant illiteracy among the Tribals and poor people;
- (b) If so, whether many multinational companies and NGOs came forward to support Government's extensive network to attract more children to maximize enrolment and minimize dropout;
- (c) If so, the details and facts thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to evolve MNCs and NGOs to eradicate the mass illiteracy among the Tribal and poor peoples;
- (e) the schemes prepared for the purpose by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (f) the central assistance given to various NGOs during the last three years and current financial year to maximize enrolment and minimize dropout?

**Answer**

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

(a): According to 2001 Census (final), the literacy rate of scheduled tribes was 47.1 per cent and that of the scheduled castes was 54.7 per cent as against the national literacy rate of 64.8 per cent.

(a) & (c) The Education Guarantee Scheme & Alternative and Innovative Education which is one of the important components of Sarva Shiksha Abhiya, seeks the involvement of NGOs for covering out of school children in the 6-14 age group.

(d) & (e) The universalisation of the elementary education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country including scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Both the programmes envisage a significant role for NGOs. In the elementary education sector, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been launched with a holistic and convergent approach to implement Universalisation of Elementary Education in a mission mode with the district focus. The educational development of children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a special focus in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The participation of dalits and tribals in the affairs of the school will be specially encouraged to ensure ownership of the Abhiyan by all social groups, especially the most disadvantaged. Some of these interventions for children from socially weaker sections of the society are:

- Special mainstreaming camps, AIE centers for out-of-school girls/SC/ST children.
- Special teaching support as per need.
- Using Community Teachers Special training for non-tribal teachers to work in tribal areas, including knowledge of tribal dialect and bridge language inventory for use of teachers.
- Context specific intervention in the form of a hostel, an incentive or a special facility as required and Mid-day meal programme.
- Provision of free text books to all girl/SC/ST children at primary and upper primary level with an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child.
- Context specific innovative interventions for girls' education and education of SC/ST children up to Rs. 50 lakh in a district in a particular year in which the ceiling for each intervention per year is Rs. 15.00 lakhs.
- Incentives like uniforms and scholarships are funded from State Plan.
- Text Book in mother tongue for children at the beginning of primary education where they do not understand regional language.
- Setting up of EGS centers within a kilometer of habitation having at least 15 children in the age group of 6-14 years or even 10 children in hilly, remote and tribal areas.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to provide functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 age group.

(f) The central assistance given to NGOs for elementary education during the last three years is given below:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
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Amount	464.94	444.49	259.48
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