

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2075  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004  
ADVANTAGE TO WOMEN  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether women suffer many disadvantages as compared to men in terms of literacy rates, labour participation rates and earnings etc.;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a Committee to look into these disadvantages;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring white paper on the women status in India;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to ensure women rightful place in society by empowering them?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATIKANTI SINGH)

- (a) According to the Census 2001 data, the all India female literacy rate was 53.7% compared to the male literacy rate of 75.3%. The work participation rate was 25.6% for females compared to 51.7% for males. Similar data is not available in respect of earnings.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Institutional mechanisms, laws and policies and programmes already exist to address the various disadvantages suffered by women and to empower them fully. Setting up of a separate committee for the purpose is not considered necessary at this stage.
- (e) No, Sir. There are a number of reports brought out by the Government on the subject and a chapter 'State of Indian Women' also exists in Annual Report 2001-2002 of the Department of Women and Child Development.
- (f) Does not arise.
- (g) The Government has adopted a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 and has been giving thrust in areas crucial to their empowerment.