

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2574  
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008  
LITERACY SCHEME FOR TRIBALS  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the rate of illiteracy is very high among the tribals in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of illiterate tribals in the country presently, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a literacy scheme for the tribals in view of widespread illiteracy among them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether certain States have sent proposals for financial assistance to the Union Government for literacy Programmes among the tribal people;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) According to census 2001, literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes is 47.10%. However, literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes increased by 17.50% during 1991-2001 against the over all increase of 12.63% in the literacy rate of the country. A statement showing State-wise number of illiterate Scheduled Tribes as per census 2001 is annexed.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. Literacy programmes of National Literacy Mission are implemented for imparting literacy to all illiterates in 15-35 age group with special emphasis on disadvantaged sections of society including Tribals. Literacy programmes in tribal districts are funded in the ratio of 4:1 between Central Government and State Government as against 2:1 ratio in case of other districts. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 74 districts with high tribal concentration have been identified for special focus and Rs.1500 crore have been provided. 52 districts identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are receiving focused attention for girls education, infrastructure and convergence with Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), special focus is given for education of girls from Scheduled Tribe communities. Under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Schools, out of 2180 Girls residential schools at upper primary level, 457 have been sanctioned in ST blocks directly benefiting tribal girls to continue their basic education. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Schemes of Construction of Boys'/Girls' Hostels for STs, Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy among Scheduled Tribe girls. 73 Eklavya model residential schools from Class VI to Class XII are also being funded in States/UTs.

(e), (f) & (g) Proposals received from the States for their districts are based on total number of illiterates in 15-35 age group, which includes tribals also. Based on this, so far 597 districts of the country have been covered under Total Literacy Campaign, 485 districts under Post Literacy Programme and 328 districts under Continuing Education Programme.