

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:68
ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008
LITERACY AMONG TRIBALS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the literacy rate among tribals is very low in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement any Scheme for imparting education to tribals in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether some of the State Governments have submitted the proposals seeking financial assistance from the Union Government in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/ likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON)

(a) to (f): According to census 2001, literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes is 47.1% as against the total literacy rate of 64.8%. A statement showing State-wise number of illiteracy of Scheduled Tribe persons according to the 2001 Census is annexed.

Although the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes has shown an increase of 17.5% during 1990-91 to 2001 as against the overall increase of 12.63%, there is still a considerable gap between the two. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its various schemes has been filling in this gap by facilitating education of Scheduled Tribes. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the efforts of the Ministry of Human Resource Development which is the nodal Ministry for literacy and education by implementing the following schemes:-

- (1) Schemes of Construction of Boys'/Girls' Hostels for STs;
- (2) Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas;
- (3) Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts in low literacy pockets for development of literacy among Scheduled Tribe girls; and
- (4) Grants under Article 275(1) Eklavya Model Residential Schools from Class VI to Class XII have been set up.

The details of these schemes can be seen in the Annual Report and on the web site of the Ministry (www.tribal.nic.in).

Proposals are received from all the States and UTs to provide financial assistance under the schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The proposals received from States/UTs which are complete in every respect according to the requirements of the schemes, are processed for financial sanction.