

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:114
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
ADULT LITERACY
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a): whether according to the data on adult literacy rate available from the UNDP Human Development Report, India is placed at 123 position out of 162 countries;
- (b): if so, the facts and reasons therefor;
- (c): the specific steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d): the present rate of adult literacy in the country, State- wise;
- (e): the extent to which it is likely to increase by the end of 2004;
- (f): whether the funds allocated by the Government to remove illiteracy are being misused;
- (g): if so, the details thereof; and
- (h): the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SH. ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.114 BY SH. SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL REGARDING ADULT LITERACY.

(a) & (b) According to UNDP Human Development Report 2003, India was ranked 127 out of 175 countries. The ranking is done on the basis of the Human Development Index of each country, which is calculated giving equal weightage to life expectancy, educational achievement and GDP per capita. The educational index is based on both adult literacy and combined primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment. The ranking of a country depends on several parameters including adult literacy.

(c) The universalisation of elementary education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. 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 National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to provide functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 age group. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, to organize residual illiteracy projects in areas which have substantial number of illiterates and to set up continuing education centers for providing opportunities for life long learning to the neo-literates.

(d) The Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India has not released the age-wise literacy rates based on 2001 census. However, the state-wise literacy rates for the population aged 7 years and above as per the 2001 census is enclosed at Annexure I.

(e) The adult literacy rates are not projected on an year-to-year basis. However, the goal of NLM is to achieve 75% literacy rate by 2007.

(f) to (h) The State Literacy Mission Authorities under the respective state governments are responsible for the proper implementation of literacy programmes and also to ensure that funds are not misused. Funds are released in a phased manner by this Department after review of the satisfactory progress of implementation of the projects and settlement of accounts.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEWISE LITERACY OF THE AGE GROUP 7+ ABOVE – 2001#

S.No.	State/UT#	Literacy Rate
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1.	Andhra Pradesh	61.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	54.74
3.	Assam	64.28
4.	Bihar	47.53
5.	Chhattisgarh	65.18
6.	Goa	82.32
7	Gujarat	69.97
8.	Haryana	68.59
9.	Himachal Pradesh	77.13
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	54.46
11.	Jharkhand	54.13
12.	Karnataka	67.04
13.	Kerala	90.92
14.	Madhya Pradesh	64.11
15.	Maharashtra	77.27
16.	Manipur	68.87
17.	Meghalaya	63.31
18.	Mizoram	88.49
19.	Nagaland	67.11
20.	Orissa	63.61
21.	Punjab	69.95
22.	Rajasthan	61.03
23.	Sikkim	69.68
24.	Tamil Nadu	73.47
25.	Tripura	73.66
26.	Uttaranchal	72.28
27.	Uttar Pradesh	57.36
28.	West Bengal	69.22
29.	A & N Islands#	81.18
30.	Chandigarh#	81.76
31.	D & N Haveli#	60.03
32.	Daman & Diu#	81.09
33.	Delhi#	81.82
34.	Lakshadweep#	87.52
35.	Pondicherry#	81.49

All India 65.38

Provisional