

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:200

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

ADULT LITERACY

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether a number of countries, with a lower per capita income than India are better placed in terms of adult literacy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to improve adult literacy in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 200 FOR 10.3.2010 ASKED BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB AND SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA REGARDING ADULT LITERACY

(a) & (b) UNESCO's and World Bank's statistics reveal that during 2005-07, some of the countries like Cambodia, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi and Tajikistan had lower per capita income but higher adult literacy rate as compared to India. On account of Government's consistent efforts, India's literacy levels have risen from 14% at the time of independence to 64% in 2001. During 1988-2008, National Literacy Mission succeeded in making 127.45 million adults literate. However, because of India's very large number of non-literate adults, it would take greater efforts and time to reach international levels of adult literacy.

(c) to (e) The Government, on 8th September, 2009, have launched the new variant of National Literacy Mission, namely Saakshar Bharat, with special focus on female literacy. The new Mission aims to impart literacy to 70 million non-literate adults including 60 million women and 10 million men. Such districts that have female literacy rate of 50% or below will be covered under the Scheme. In the year 2009-10, the Mission has been rolled out in 167 districts in 19 States.

In Saakshar Bharat, besides the volunteer based approach, provision has been made for alternative approaches to adult education. Adult Education Centres (AECs), will be set up to provide the entire range of Adult Education, including, Literacy, Post Literacy, Basic Education, Vocational Education and Life Long Learning within their territorial jurisdiction. State Government and Panchayati Raj Institutions, along with communities, will be valued stakeholders in the new programme. Vigorous management system, including, the monitoring and evaluation systems will be installed. In view of the increasing vibrancy of Panchayati Raj Institutions, post 73rd Constitutional amendment, Panchayats have been designated as the implementing agency at the operational level. Budgetary support for literacy programmes has been enhanced substantially. In XI Plan, an allocation of Rs.5257 crores has been made for the Scheme. In the Union Budget 2010-11, Rs.1167 crore have been proposed for Saakshar Bharat under Adult Education & Skill Development Scheme.