

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2969

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LITERACY RATE

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

- (a) the literacy rate in the country compared to the literacy rate of neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan;
- (b) whether the literacy amongst the students in the country a markedly increased during the last decade after successful implementation of various comprehensive educational programmes in various States;
- (c) if so, the extent of increase in literacy rate in each State/UT during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to have educational exchange programme with neighbouring countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): The literacy rate in the country as compared to the literacy rate of neighbouring countries is as follows:

S.No. Country Literacy Rate in percentage
(Age group 15 years and above) (2000-2007)

- 1. India 66
- 2. Bangladesh 53
- 3. Bhutan 53
- 4. Nepal 57
- 5. Pakistan 54
- 6. Sri Lanka 91

Source: UNESCO's EFA GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT, 2010

(b): To impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years, the National Literacy Mission was launched in 1988 and it continued through the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans. Because of efforts made under the Mission as well as other educational programmes of the Government, the literacy rate in the country registered a marked increase from 52.21% in 1991 to 64.84% in 2001.

(c): The literacy rate in India is collected decennially and not annually. A Statement giving State/UT wise literacy rate, as per the 1991 and 2001 Census, and the increase therein is annexed.

(d): There is no educational exchange programme with neighbouring countries.