

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:21

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

LITERACY RATE

Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) the gender-wise number of illiterates in each State/UT at present;
- (b) whether a recent survey by UNESCO has revealed that 35% of illiterates in the world reside in India;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the achievements made so far under 'Saakshar Bharat Scheme';
- (e) whether the Government proposes to involve corporate bodies for funding the scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- g) the strategies chalked out by the Government to achieve 80% literacy rate by 2015 in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 21 FOR 10.11.2010 ASKED BY SHRIASADUDDIN OWAIISI AND SHRI DATTA MEGHE REGARDING LITERACY RATE

- a) A statement giving gender-wise number of adult illiterates in each State/UT, as per 2001 Census, is enclosed as Annexure.
- b) According to Global Education Digest, 2010, brought out by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), for the reference year 2006, an estimated number of 796 million adults (15 years and above) lacked basic literacy skills, out of which 283 million have been reported to be in India (35% approx.).
- c) to (g): The Government acknowledges centrality of literacy to development - individual, societal and national - and is committed to eradication of illiteracy in the country. The National Literacy Goal is to raise, by 2012, the literacy rate to 80% and reduce the gender gap to 10%, besides minimising regional, social and gender disparities in literacy levels. Towards this objective, Saakshar Bharat, a new variant of the National Literacy Mission, was launched on 8th September 2009 and since then been rolled out in 167 districts. It has been decided to cover 118 additional districts during 2010-11.

The core strategy is to improve Equity, Access and Quality of adult education besides Good Governance. To ensure equity, the prime focus of the mission is on women, SCs, STs, minorities and other disadvantaged groups. To improve access, the programme provides for setting up of at least one Adult Education Centre, in each eligible Gram Panchayat. To make it participatory, Gram Panchayats, along with community, are envisaged as the implementing agencies at the grass root level. To ensure quality, the scheme provides for development of core curriculum framework, high quality teaching learning material, improving quality of literacy educators, assessment and certification, new learning technologies, promotion of literate environment and adequate resource support. Towards good governance, a web based fund release and accounting system to facilitate 'Just-in-time' release of funds and also robust monitoring and evaluation system have been devised to infuse transparency, accountability and organisational efficiency in implementation.

As a national mission, Saakshar Bharat promotes pro-active participation and support of all stakeholders including Government (Central and State), Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs, public and private sector, individuals and collectives. The Mission specifically provides for establishment of a Rashtriya Saaksharta Kosh for augmenting Non-Budgetary resources through public donations and grant in aid to meet expenditure on activities for which budgetary support could not be provided. Public and Private Sector has been approached to assist the Mission, in terms of infrastructure, vocational training/skill development, environment building, mobilisation and training etc.