

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:311

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether literacy campaign has picked up pace in the various States after the implementation of the Right to Education Act and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the literacy rate in the country lagging far behind the world literacy rate;
- (d) the details of the States achieving high literacy rate in the country and those lagging behind; and
- (e) the fresh initiatives contemplated, if any, 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. 311 FOR 1.12.2010 ASKED BY SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE, SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN REGARDING LITERACY CAMPAIGN

(a) & (b) Government is implementing the Saakshar Bharat programme since 2009-10 to provide literacy and continuing education to persons in the 15+ age group. The Saakshar Bharat programme has been sanctioned for 167 districts in 2009-10 and 43 districts in 2010-11. Simultaneously, Government is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalization of elementary education for children in the 6-14 age group. With the enforcement of the Right of Children for Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 with effect from 1st April, 2010, all children in this age group have a fundamental right to free and compulsory education, and the SSA norms have been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act. SSA and RTE complement the Government's efforts to improve literacy levels across the country.

(c) The reasons for the country's literacy rate lagging behind the world literacy rate are various socio-economic factors including lack of awareness, poverty, gender and social category inequities, inadequate access to schooling, etc.

(d) The details of the States achieving high literacy rate in the country and those lagging behind are annexed.

(e) Recasting of National Literacy Mission as Saakshar Bharat and its implementation w.e.f. 1.10.2009, streamlining of Mid Day Meals Scheme, enactment of Right of Children for Free and Compulsory Education Act, enhanced budgetary support for all these programmes during the Eleventh Plan period and their intensive monitoring are expected to give further impetus to literacy campaign in the country.