

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2422
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
FEMALE LITERACY
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether female literacy rate is far below the rate of national literacy in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the rate of female literacy and that of national literacy, as on January 1, 2007 and January 01, 2010 separately; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to launch National Mission for Female Literacy?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, sir. As per the Census 2001, the National Literacy rate was 64.84% while female literacy rate was 53.67%.
- (b): The main reasons for low literacy of females in the country are economic, social, cultural, and religious.
- (c): Data on literacy is collected during decadal census held every 10 years. Last census was held in the year 2001 and the next one is due in 2011. There is no data available regarding literacy rate as on 1st January, 2007/2010.
- (d): The prime focus of Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of National Literacy Mission, is on women. Saakshar Bharat was launched on 8th September, 2009 and has become operational w.e.f. 1.10.2009.