

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:336

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

LITERACY LEVEL

Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

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

- (a) whether an International body regularly carries out a survey to rank various nations according to literacy level prevailing in their countries;
- (b) if so, the rank of India amongst other nations; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the level of literacy in India?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(Dr. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Global Monitoring Report 2010, brought out by UNESCO annually, on Education for All, has ranked India 108 out of 128, in respect of adult literacy.

(c) To improve the level of literacy in the country, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched in 2001 with the objective of Universalisation of Elementary Education. Further, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has been operationalised for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. To improve the literacy levels in the age group of 15 years and above, Saakshar Bharat, a new variant of the National Literacy Mission, was launched on 8th September 2009 in districts having adult female literacy rate of 50% or below, as per Census of 2001, besides Left Wing Extremism affected districts. The focus is on women, who constitute 85% of the targeted beneficiaries, of the programme. The programme offers continuing education, basic education (equivalency), skill development and functional literacy support to the beneficiaries.