

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011
FEMALE LITERACY
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) whether adult female literacy is still low in India;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of adult female literacy in the country;
- (c) the number of districts having adult female literacy below 25 per cent; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve female literacy in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the Census of 2001, the adult female (15+) literacy rate in the country was 47.82%. State-wise details are enclosed as Annexure-I.

(c): There are 58 districts having adult female literacy rate below 25 per cent as per Census of 2001. Names of the districts having adult female literacy rate below 25 per cent are enclosed, as Annexure-II.

(d): To give impetus to female literacy and to reduce gender gap in literacy to 10% as against 21%, reported in Census of 2001, Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of the National Literacy Mission, was launched on 8th September, 2009 with a renewed focus on women; who constitute 85% of the targeted beneficiaries. Coverage of the programme is confined to districts having adult female literacy rate of 50% or below, as per 2001 Census, besides Left Wing Extremism Affected districts. The programme offers continuing education, basic education (equivalency), continuing education, skill development and functional literacy.