

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5675

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011

WOMEN LITERACY RATE

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

- (a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding women literacy and illiteracy;
- (b) if so, the rank of the country in women literacy vis-à-vis the other countries of the world including reasons therefor;
- (c) whether women literacy programmes are lagging behind;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any target has been set to literate the women during current Five Year Plan;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the target for 100 percent literacy for women in the country?

**Answer**

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

- (a): No specific assessment has been made by the Government regarding women literacy and illiteracy.
- (b): No designated world body like UNESCO publishes any, inter se, ranking of countries based on uniform data on women literacy.
- (c) to (g): The target during the current Five Year Plan is to reduce the gender gap to 10%. No state wise target has been set. The National literacy Mission and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan were launched by the Government to raise literacy of adults and children respectively. Both the programmes had a special focus on women. It may be far fetched to state that women literacy programmes are lagging behind. As a cumulative effect of the two programmes cited, the female literacy rate has risen to 65.46%, a record decadal increase of 11.79% as reported in Census 2011. To achieve 100 percent women literacy, Government have enacted The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 for universalisation of elementary education and revamped National Literacy Mission with the renewed focus on women in the age group of 15 and above.