

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

LITERACY

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

- (a) whether a large number of our country's illiterates reside in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the percentage of total illiterates living in the country, State-wise with male-female break-up; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken to increase literacy especially female literacy in all States?

Answer

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

(a & b): Yes, Sir. As per provisional data of Census of 2011, percentage of total illiterates in the 7+ age group is 25.96; 17.86 are male and 34.54 are female. State-wise literacy rate with male-female break-up is annexed as Annexure I.

(c): Government have enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and launched Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, to raise literacy level, specially female literacy in the age group of 6-14 years and 15 years and above respectively in the country. The prime focus of Saakshar Bharat is on women and is being implemented only in low adult female literacy districts. Priority is being given to women belonging to SC, ST, Minority and other disadvantaged groups in rural areas. Efforts are being made to engage women as volunteers and instructors to encourage women learners to participate in the programme.