

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:288

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011

LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether literacy campaign has picked up pace in the various States after the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a survey by UNESCO has revealed that 35% illiterates in the world reside in India;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the reasons for literacy rate in the country being lower than the world literacy rate;
- (e) the achievements made so far in the Saakshar Bharat Scheme;
- (f) the details of funds sanctioned and spent under different literacy schemes during the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the level of literacy in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 288 FOR 14.12.2011 ASKED BY SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY AND SHRI YASHVIR SINGH REGARDING LITERACY CAMPAIGN.

(a) & (b) Government is implementing the Saakshar Bharat programme since 2009-10 to provide literacy and continuing education to persons in the 15+ age group. The Saakshar Bharat programme has been sanctioned for 167 districts in 2009-10, 115 districts in 2010-11 and 90 districts in 2011- 12. Simultaneously, Government is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalization of elementary education for children in the 6-14 age group. With the enforcement of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 with effect from 1st April, 2010, all children in this age group have a fundamental right to free and compulsory education, and the SSA norms have been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act. SSA and RTE complement the Government's efforts to improve literacy levels across the country.

(c) As per the UNESCO Global Education Digest 2011, estimated number of adult illiterates in India (283 million) forms about 35.7 percent of the total adult illiterates of the world (793 million).

(d) The country's literacy rate is lower than the world literacy rate largely because of huge accumulated backlog of non-literate people besides poverty, gender and social category inequities, inadequate access to schooling, etc. Government has reiterated its commitment to establishing a literate society and providing quality literacy to all irrespective of age and gender.

(e) Saakshar Bharat is being implemented in a phased manner with optimum utilization of financial resources. Programme has been sanctioned in 372 out of 410 targeted districts of 25 states and one Union Territory. 82,099 Adult Education Centres are reported to have been set up. Survey has been completed in 65,952 Gram Panchayats; 377.48 lakhs learners have been identified; and Teaching learning process has commenced in 7,74,537 Literacy Centres.

(f) A statement indicating scheme-wise and State-wise details of central grants released under Saakshar Bharat programme since its inception and details of central grants released for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meals Scheme during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-I, II & III respectively.

(g) Recasting of National Literacy Mission as Saakshar Bharat and its implementation w.e.f. 1.10.2009, streamlining of Mid Day Meals Scheme, enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, enhanced budgetary support for all

these programmes during the Eleventh Plan period and their intensive monitoring are expected to improve the level of literacy in the country.