

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3326

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011

SCS/STS LITERACY RATE

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether it is fact that acute economic deprivations and social disabilities accentuate the problem of illiteracy among Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) if so, whether lack of communication, inaccessibility of their habitations, scattered population, lack of adequate institutional infrastructure made the problem of illiteracy more difficult;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) the present rate of literacy of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve the literacy rate among the disadvantaged sections of society and to provide adequate institutional infrastructure to meet the constitutional obligations?

Answer

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

- (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. As per 2001 Census, the literacy rate amongst SCs (7+ age group and above) was 54.69% and amongst STs (7 years and above) was 47.10% against the National Literacy rate (7+ age group and above) of 64.84%.
- (d): As SC/ST wise data of Census of 2011 is not yet released, a statement indicating the State-wise illiteracy rate (7+ age group) of SCs and STs, based on 2001 Census data, is annexed.
- (e): 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, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other disadvantaged sections of the society. SCs comprise 20% and STs comprise 11.4% of the total targeted beneficiaries under Saakshar Bharat programme. For each focus group, there is an explicit approach and strategy. The programme provides for setting-up of Adult Education Centres (AECs) at Gram Panchayat level, preferably in areas dominated by SCs/STs and other disadvantages group to provide institutional, managerial and resource support to literacy and life long education at grass root level. AECs are manned by two Coordinators (Preraks) who should preferably be from marginalized groups (SCs/STs/Minorities).