

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3437
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011
FEMALE LITERACY
Rani Killi Krupa

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

- (a) Whether female literacy rate is far below the rate of national literacy in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the rate of female literacy and national literacy during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve the female literacy rate in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. As per the provisional data of Census 2011, the female literacy rate is 65.46% against National Literacy rate of 74.04%. The main reasons for low literacy of female in the country are economic, social, cultural and religious. Data on literacy is collected through decadal census held every 10 years. As per Census 2001, the National Literacy rate was 64.84% and female literacy rate was 53.67%.

(d): Government have enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and launched Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in September, 2009, to raise literacy level, specially female literacy, in the age group of 6-14 years and 15 years and above respectively. The principal focus of Saakshar Bharat is on women and it is being implemented only in low adult female literacy districts having adult female literacy rate of 50% or below as per Census 2001.