

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6659

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012

LITERACY RATE

Mishra Shri Govind Prasad; Mohan Shri P. C.; Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) the salient features of various schemes launched by the Government to literate the illiterate persons in the country;
- (b) whether the number of illiterates in various States is more than the national average;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there was a huge gap between allocation and utilization of funds under various schemes to literate the illiterate persons at State level during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a) To literate the non-literate adults in the country, the National Literacy Mission, was recast as Saakshar Bharat and launched on 8th September, 2009 and it came into implementation with effect from 1.10.09.
- (b) & (c) Yes Sir. In 11 States, the rate of literacy is less than the national average of 74.04%. The details are at Annexure-I.
- (d) & (e) A statement showing details of central share released and total expenditure incurred under Saakshar Bharat programme since its inception year-wise, State/UT-wise, is at Annexure-II. No fund has been released in the current year. The pace of expenditure in few States viz. Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Haryana, Maharashtra and Assam is particularly low. The prime reason for low utilisation of funds is that programme management structures are being revived as Saakshar Bharat was launched in 2009 after a considerable period of dormancy of the National Literacy Mission, its first version. Further, some of the State Governments have not accorded the programme adequately high priority. Litigation, low capacity of the sub-State implementing agencies, namely, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the voluntary nature of the programme are the other factors impacting the pace of implementation.
- (f) To accelerate the pace of implementation of the programme, the Government has been rigorously reviewing the programme with State Governments at various levels and addressing teething problems. Capacities of the State Literacy Mission Authorities as well as Panchayati Raj Institutions are being developed through regular orientation and training. Performing States are also being encouraged through conferment of awards.