

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:361

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012

LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) the current literacy rate in the country along with the number of adult illiterates, State-wise and gender-wise;
- (b) whether a survey by UNESCO has revealed that 35% illiterates in the world reside in India;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the reasons for the literacy rate in the country being lower than the world literacy rate;
- (d) whether literacy campaign has picked up pace in various States after the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 361 TO BE ANSWERED ON 5.9.2012 ASKED BY SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN AND SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH REGARDING 'LITERACY CAMPAIGN'.

(a) As per provisional data of Census 2011, the literacy rate in the country is 74.04%. The number of adult illiterates is known only as per 2001 Census. Based on that, a statement indicating number of adult illiterates, State-wise and gender-wise is annexed.

(b) 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).

(c) to (e) The country's literacy rate is lower than the world literacy rate largely because of huge accumulated backlog of non-literate persons due to various factors including 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. 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. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in 2001-02 and the country's literacy rate has gone up from 64.84% to 74.04% between 2001 and 2011. 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.