

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:949

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

FEMALE LITERACY RATE

Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

**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 that of national literacy, as on January 01, 2006 and January 01,2009 separately;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(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a): Yes, sir. As per the Census 2001, the National Literacy rate was 64.84% while female literacy rate was 53.67%.
- (b): The main reasons for low literacy of females in the country are social, cultural, and religious.
- (c): Last census was held in the year 2001. Next one is due in 2011. There is no data available regarding literacy rate as on 1st January, 2006/2009.
- (d): The National Literacy Mission has been recast and its new variant, Saakshar Bharat, has prime focus on literacy of women specially in rural areas of districts having adult female literacy of 50% or below (as per 2001 census).