

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4305

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012

ILLITERACY IN RURAL AREAS

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

- (a) whether a large number of illiterates live in the rural areas of the States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of such illiterates, State-wise, male female break-up and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken to increase literacy in rural areas especially amongst female;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any target to achieve literacy rate during the Twelfth Plan Period;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to involve corporate bodies for funding the National Literacy Mission and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): As per the provisional data of the Census 2011, 222.48 million illiterates are in rural areas. The percentage of illiterates in rural areas, state wise with male-female break up, is annexed. The comparatively higher levels of illiteracy in rural areas can be ascribed to inadequate access besides social and cultural factors.

(c) : The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Saakshar Bharat, the two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, aim to raise literacy levels in the age group of 6-14 years and 15 years and above respectively. While the principal focus under the Saakshar Bharat scheme is on females in rural areas, the SSA too has a special focus on increasing literacy among girls.

(d) & (e) : The target for the Twelfth Five Year Plan is to raise the overall literacy rate to over 80%. To achieve this end, it has been decided to continue Saakshar Bharat during the 12th Five Year Plan with several modifications. Besides, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will continue to be implemented with increased financial support in the context of the Right to Education Act 2009.

(f) : Yes, Sir. The Saakshar Bharat programme envisages partnership with the corporate sector to promote the objectives of the programme. The National Literacy Mission Authority is authorized to develop Public Private Partnerships and other models of partnership to generate funds and also to obtain donations.