

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:639

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

LITERACY

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

- (a) the current literacy rate in the country; State/gender-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide special assistance to the States which are below national average and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any task force in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the level of literacy in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) A statement indicating the current literacy rate in the country, State/gender-wise as per the 2011 Census, is enclosed as Annexure-I.
- (b) No Madam. However, only rural areas in educationally backward districts (districts, including new districts carved out of erstwhile districts, that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent or below, as per 2011 Census), besides left-wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rate, are eligible for coverage under Saakshar Bharat, a centrally sponsored scheme.
- (c) & (d) No Madam.
- (e) The Government has enacted The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and launched Saakshar Bharat. The former, supported by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, covers children aged 6-14 years and the latter covers persons aged 15 years and above. Besides, the Mid-day-Meal Scheme is another important programme of the Government that aims to raise the literacy level.