

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1473

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013

WOMEN LITERACY

Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

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

- (a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding women literacy;
- (b) if so, the rank of the country in women literacy vis-a-vis the other countries of the world including reasons therefor;
- (c) whether women literacy programmes are lagging behind;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any targets were set to literate the women during the last three years;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and (g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the target for 100 per cent literacy for women in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) : No specific assessment has been made by the Government regarding women literacy. However, Ministry figures indicate a female literacy rate of 65.4% in 2011.
- (b) : No designated world body like UNESCO publishes any, inter se, ranking of countries based on uniform data on women literacy.
- (c) to (g) : The target during the Eleventh Five Year Plan was to reduce the gender gap to 10%. No state-wise target had been set. The National Literacy Mission and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan were launched by the Government to raise the literacy of adults and children respectively. Both the programmes had a special focus on women. It may be far fetched to state that women literacy programmes are lagging behind. As a cumulative effect of the two programmes cited, the female literacy rate has risen to 65.46%, a record decadal increase of 11.79% as reported in Census 2011. To achieve 100 percent women literacy, the Government has enacted The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 for the universalisation of elementary education and revamped the National Literacy Mission with a renewed focus on women in the age group of 15 and above.