

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1520

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

NATIONAL LITERACY MISSION

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

- (a) the number of illiterate in the country, State-wise/male-female breakup-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the literacy rate in the country lagging far behind the world literacy rate;
- (c) the details of the States achieving high literacy rate in the country and those lagging behind;
- (d) the fresh initiatives contemplated, if any, in this regard; and
- (e) the details of the funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred on the National Literacy Mission during the last three years and the current year, State/year-wise?

Answer

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

- (a) A statement indicating the number of illiterates in the country, State-wise, male-female wise, as per 2011 census, is at Annexure-I.
- (b) The country's literacy rate is lower than the world literacy rate largely because of the huge accumulated backlog of non-literate people besides poverty, gender and social category inequities, inadequate access to schooling, etc.
- (c) As per the report of Census 2011, the State of Kerala has the highest literacy rate of 94 percent and the State of Bihar has the lowest literacy rate of 61.80 percent. A statement indicating the rank of each State/Union Territory by literacy rate is at Annexure-II.
- (d) The Government have enacted The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and launched Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, to raise the literacy level, in the age group of 6-14 years and 15 years and above, respectively in the country. The Saakshar Bharat programme has been further extended for the XIth Plan period ending March 2017 with a target to raise literacy levels to 80% and reduce the gender gap to 10 percentile points, besides bridging regional disparities.
- (e) A State-wise statement indicating funds sanctioned year-wise during the last three years and current year towards the central share and utilized under the Saakshar Bharat scheme is at Annexure-III.