

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2733  
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014  
LITERACY RATE OF TRIBAL GIRLS  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

**Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the present literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) indicating the break-up of male and female literacy rates and its comparison vis-a-vis the overall literacy rate in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether improvement in the literacy rate of tribal girls is essential to enable them to participate effectively in and benefit from socio-economic development;
- (c) if so, measures taken or schemes being implemented to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal girls along with the funds released and utilized under such schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken for 100 percent enrolment of tribal girls and reducing dropouts at the elementary level by creating the required ambience for education?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SMT. RANEE NARAH)

- (a): The present literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) indicating the break-up of male and female literacy rates and its comparison vis-a-vis the overall literacy rate in the country, State/UT-wise; is given at Annexure-I.
- (b): Yes, Madam.
- (c) & (d): The Central Government have enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE) and launched Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, to raise the literacy level, in the age group of 6-14 and 15 years and above, respectively in the country.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is a flagship programmes of the Government of India to provide for free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age of six to fourteen years including children belonging to Scheduled Tribes. To improve the enrolment rates of ST children, SSA provides for – opening of new schools, additional teachers as per Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), infrastructure support in schools, residential schools & hostels, free uniforms, and free text books. SSA also provides for seasonal hostels, dormitories to cover children who have dropped out due to migration. There is provision of special training for Out of School Children for admission into age appropriate classes.

The SSA has identified 109 Scheduled tribes (ST) concentrated districts in the country to give special focus on the education of children belonging to ST category. In addition Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) which are residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in Educationally Backward Blocks have been sanctioned. As on 31.12.2013, 24.96% of the girls enrolled are from ST families. Out of the 3609 KGBVs sanctioned 508 KGBVs have been sanctioned in districts with 25% and above ST population with a total enrollment of 52225. 67.95 % of the girls enrolled therein belong to ST category.

Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of National Literacy Mission, primarily focuses on adult non-literate women of rural areas of 410 eligible districts (adult female literacy rate below 50 per cent as per Census 2001 and all Left Wing Extremism Affected districts irrespective of literacy rate) with the principal target of imparting functional literacy to 70 million adults including 8 million STs in the age group of 15 years and beyond.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a specific scheme for ST girls – 'Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts'. The other schemes of this Ministry which promote education among Scheduled Tribes children are: (i) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) for imparting quality education to tribal children from class VI to class XII, (ii) Scheme of Construction of Hostels for ST Girls and Boys, (iii) Scheme of Establishment of Ashram School in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, (iv) Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students, (v) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students studying in classes IX & X (i.e. 01.07.2012), (vi) Vocational Training in Tribal Areas(State's component) (vii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for STs, (viii) Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for STs, and (ix) Top Class Education for ST students. A statement of funds released and utilized under such schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise, is given at Annexures-II to VIII.

