

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:376

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014

ILLITERATE ADULTS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram; Sugumar Shri K.

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

(a) whether the population of the illiterate adults in the country is approximately 28 crore as per the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of illiterates in the country has declined over the years and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to address the issue;

(d) whether there is gender disparity and inequality in the standard of education being imparted in the country; and

(e) if so, the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 376 FOR 19.2.2014 ASKED BY SHRI SUGUMAR K. AND SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN REGARDING 'ILLITERATE ADULTS'.

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. As per the UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2013/4, estimated number of adult illiterates in India is 287.35 million.

(c) Yes Madam. As per the Census 2011, the number of illiterates has declined from 30,41,02,917 in 2001 to 28,25,92,906, in the age group of 7 and above, in the country.

(d) No Madam.

(e) Does not arise.