

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4031
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
NATIONAL LITERACY MISSION
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara;Patle Kamla Devi

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has recently reviewed the functioning of the National Literacy Mission (NLM);
- (b) if so, the outcome of the review;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to revitalise the organisational set up for effective implementation of the Mission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the country is still lagging behind in achieving the target of cent-percent literacy and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to achieve the target of cent-percent literacy rate and the time by which this target is likely to be achieved?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. As a regular exercise, the review of the Saakshar Bharat, the Adult Education Programme, was held with the States concerned in January, 2014. The submission of Utilization Certificates by the States, the Revision of Physical and Financial Plans, the Preparation for a forthcoming Assessment Test for Basic Literacy and Inter Personal Media Campaign were some of the important areas in which the review was held. The States which are lagging behind in these areas have been suitably advised to expedite the implementation.

(c) & (d) The XIIth Five-Year Plan provides for the remodelling and the strengthening of existing structures, including the National Literacy Mission Authority at the apex level, the State Literacy Mission Authorities at the State level and the Lok Shiksha Samitis at the District, Block and the Gram Panchayat levels, as well as the resource support bodies in consonance with the new scope of adult education.

(e) Yes, Madam. The Census 2011 reported 72.99 percent literacy in the country. The Government has set the target of achieving 80% literacy and reducing the gender gap to 10 percentile points, besides bridging regional disparities by the end of 12th Five Year Plan in 2017.

(f) 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. Phase-wise targets are kept to achieve the desired literacy rate. The Government has preferred not to announce a target date for 100% literacy but hopes to keep improving the percentage of literates at an accelerated rate.