

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:201

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015

LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Sigrwal Shri Janardan Singh

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

- (a) whether the number of illiterates has declined over the years and if so, the details thereof along with the current literacy rate, State and gender-wise;
- (b) whether as per a survey by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), 35% illiterates in the world are from India and if so, the reasons for low literacy rate as compared to the world literacy rate;
- (c) whether literacy campaign has picked up pace in various States after the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the other measures taken/being taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of literacy mission in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 for 11.3.2015 ASKED BY SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL AND SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY REGARDING "LITERACY CAMPAIGN".

- (a) Yes Madam. As per Census, 2011 the number of illiterates has declined to 28.27 Crore in the country from 30.41 Crore in 2001. A state- ment indicating State/gender-wise number of illiterates and literacy rates, as per the Census, 2011, is annexed.
- (b) As per the UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2013-14, around 37% of the world's total adult illiterates are reported from India. The coun- try's low literacy rate is due to various factors including poverty, gender and social inequities, etc.
- (c) & (d) Yes Madam. After the launching of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in 2001-02, enforcement of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and implementation of Saakshar Bharat Programme with effect from October, 2009 the country's literacy rate has gone up from 64.84% in 2001 to 72.98% in 2011. The gross enro- llment ratio of children in the 6-14 years age group is 97% in 2013-14 up from 86.8% in 2005-06.

In addition, under the Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development, promotion of adult literacy with special focus on women, SCs, STs, Minorities and other disadvantaged groups in rural areas of 410 districts that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent or below as per Census, 2001 including 35 left-wing extremism-affected districts, is being implemented in 26 States and one Union Territory. The objective of the programme is to raise the literacy level to 80 percent and reduce the gender gap to 10 percentage points, besides bridging regional disparities, by the end of XII Five Year Plan.