

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2110

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LITERACY RATE

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

- (a) the details of States in which the literacy rates are lower than national average and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the literacy campaign is being implemented for eradicating illiteracy in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated/disbursed in such States to give impetus to literacy during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve literacy rate in the country in a time bound manner?

Answer

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

- (a) The literacy rates are lower than the national average in eleven states namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, as per Census 2011. Various factors viz. poverty, gender and social inequities, etc. are impeding literacy in the country.
- (b) Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development, was launched on 8th September, 2009 and brought to implementation with effect from 1st October, 2009. The rural areas of all those districts that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent or below as per Census, 2001 and left-wing extremism- affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rate, are eligible for coverage under the Programme. 385 out of 410 eligible districts in 25 States and one Union Territory have been covered, so far. The principal target of the programme is to impart functional literacy to 70 million non-literates, including 60 million women. About 28.4 million learners, including 20.4 million females, have successfully passed the biannual assessment tests, conducted so far.
- (c) A statement indicating the state-wise central share released under the Saakshar Bharat Programme during the last three years is annexed. No funds have been released during the current year, so far.
- (d) The Government have enacted 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' (RTE) for universalization of elementary education in the age group of 6-14 years and launched Saakshar Bharat to enhance the literacy level in the age group of 15 years and above. A target has been set to raise the literacy levels to 80 percent and reduce the gender gap to 10 percentile points, besides bridging regional disparities, by the end of XII Five Year Plan.