

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3582

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015

LITERACY RATE AMONG SCs/ STs

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

- (a) whether acute economic deprivations and social disabilities highlight the problem of illiteracy amongst Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs);
- (b) if so, whether due to lack of communication, inaccessibility of their habitations, lack of adequate institutional infrastructure, variety of dialects, etc. the rate of literacy of STs has remained very low;
- (c) if so, the present rate of literacy of SCs and STs;
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to increase the literacy rate of SCs and STs; and
- (e) the success achieved as a result thereof during the Twelfth Five Year Plan so far?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Various factors including poverty, gender and social inequities, etc. are reasons behind low literacy rate among SCs and STs in the country.

(c) Census, 2011 reported the literacy rates, in the age group of 7 and above, among SCs and STs as 66.07% and 58.95% respectively.

(d) Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development, is being implemented in rural areas of 410 districts in 26 States and one Union Territory (UT) for enhancing the literacy rates in the country. The principal target under the programme is to make 70 million adult non-literates in the 15+ age group including 14 million SCs and 8 million STs as literates. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), India's main programme for universalizing elementary education, during last seven years (2008-09 to 2014-15), 9097 new primary schools and 6573 new upper primary schools have been sanctioned in SC dominated districts. In the same period 10478 new primary schools and 11352 new upper primary schools have been sanctioned in ST dominated districts.

4766 primary and 6464 upper primary school buildings have been sanctioned in SC dominated districts. 13307 primary school buildings and 11086 upper primary school buildings have been sanctioned in ST dominated districts.

95185 additional classrooms have been sanctioned to SC dominated districts and 150666 additional classrooms have been sanctioned in ST dominated districts.

(e) Under Saakshar Bharat programme bi-annual (March & August) assessment tests are conducted for learners under Basic Literacy with the help of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). About 22.80 million learners including 5.78 million SCs and 3.34 million STs have appeared in the 5 assessment tests conducted during 12th Plan so far, out of which 16.78 million learners including 4.17 million SCs and 2.40 million STs have successfully passed.