

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2949

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014

ILLITERACY IN RURAL AREAS

Charitra Shri Ram;Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai;Patil Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao

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

- (a) whether a large number of illiterate children live in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of such illiterates, State-wise with male-female break up and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide any special assistance to the States which have literacy rate below national average in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to increase literacy in the rural areas?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) As per reports of States/UTs, the estimated out of school children in 6-14 years age group is about 17.24 lakhs in 2014. The State-wise break up of the children out of school, as reported by States/UTs, is at Annexure.

(c) & (d) Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development, is being implemented for non-literate adults in the 15 plus age group for enhancing the literacy rate in the rural areas of 410 districts in 25 States and one Union Territory (UT), which also include 9 States and 1 UT, that have rural literacy rates below the national average in the rural areas (67.77%), as per Census, 2011. The Government have also enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme for universalisation of elementary education for all children in the 6-14 age group.