

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 12.11.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**LITERACY RATES IN STATES .**

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Shri Parimal Nathwani

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of our country's illiterates reside in States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the percentage of total illiterates living in these States, State-wise with male female break-up; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to increase literacy especially female literacy in these States? ANSWER

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): Yes, sir. The requisite information is given in the table below:

(as per Census 2001)

S No	States	No. of illiterates (Crores) (age group 7 years and above)			Percentage of total illiterates			
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	
1.	Andhra Pradesh		2.61	0.99	1.62	8.6	9.0	8.4
2.	Bihar		3.51	1.40	2.11	11.5	12.7	10.9
3.	Chhatisgarh		0.61	0.20	0.41	2.0	1.8	2.1
4.	Jharkhand		1.02	0.37	0.65	3.4	3.3	3.3
5.	Rajasthan		1.81	0.58	1.23	5.9	5.2	6.4
6.	Uttar Pradesh		5.88	2.21	3.67	19.3	20.0	19.0
7	West Bengal		2.16	0.82	1.34	7.1	7.4	6.9
	Total (7 States)		17.60	6.57	11.03	57.8	59.4	57.0

(c): To give impetus to female literacy, a new variant of the National Literacy Mission was launched on 8th September, 2009, with the objective of providing opportunities in continuing education, basic education (equivalency), skill development and functional literacy to adults, specially women, in the age group of 15 years and above. One of the specific goals of the programme is to reduce gender gap in literacy to 10% as against 21% as indicated in the Census of 2001. As women constitute a majority of the targetted beneficiaries, the programme has been given gender treatment. Districts having low adult female literacy rate of 50% or below, as per Census of 2001, alone are eligible for coverage under this programme.