

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4343
ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Steps to Increase Literacy Rate

4343. SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the literacy rate of country in 2023 is 77.7 per cent as compared to the literacy rate of 73 per cent in 2011;
- (b) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the literacy rate over 90 per cent in the country therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to return the school dropout students during post-Covid period and increase of female literacy rates therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) The literacy data in India is collected through decennial census operation conducted by the Registrar General of India. As per the Census of India 2011, the literacy rate of India was 72.98%. As per information from National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the literacy rate of India in 2017 was 77.7%.

(b) & (c) : In order to increase the literacy rate in India, the Department of School Education and Literacy launched an integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for school education i.e. "Samagra Shiksha" with effect from the FY 2018-19. The scheme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" (SSA), "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" (RMSA) and "Teacher Education". It envisages 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. The States/Union Territories are assisted by the Central Government to implement the Samagra Shiksha as a programme for providing universal access and retention, bridging

the gender and social category in education and enhancement of learning level of children at all levels of school education. The scheme is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education and is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 i.e. to ensure inclusive and equitable, quality and holistic school education. The scheme was initially approved from FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-21 and extended upto FY 2025-26.

In order to improve the literacy rate among adults in India, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Adult Education namely Saakshar Bharat was implemented in the rural areas of 404 districts in 26 States and one Union Territory, that had adult female literacy rate 50 per cent and below as per Census of India 2001, including left wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rates, with special focus on women and other disadvantaged groups. The target was to raise the overall literacy rate of India to 80 per cent and reduce gender gap to 10 percentage point by end of XII Five Year Plan. The Scheme was extended upto 31.03.2018. During the implementation of the Saakshar Bharat Scheme, against the overall target of 7.00 crore adult non-literates as literates, around 7.64 crore learners (Female: 5.38 crore Male: 2.26 crore) who passed the biannual Basic Literacy Assessment Tests conducted by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) between August, 2010 to March, 2018, were certified as literates.

Subsequently, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Adult Education “Padhna Likhna Abhiyaan” was implemented in India during the FY 2020-21, with target of 48.16 lakh adult non-literates as literates. The Scheme was extended upto 31.03.2022.

The Union of India has approved a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely - Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme - NILP) to align with the National Education Policy 2020 and to support all the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates across the country covering 5.00 crore non-literates under Foundational Literacy and Numeracy of the scheme with a financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore including Central Share of Rs.700.00 crore and State Share of Rs.337.90 crore during the implementation period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, in order to prevent drop outs, lower enrolments and loss of learning has issued guidelines on 13th July, 2020 for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children. Students of residential schools were provided temporary admission in schools nearby their homes, as they may not go back to their residential schools during COVID-19.

Further, to ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, Ministry of Education has shared guidelines dated 7th January, 2021 with all States which, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrolment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued education for the Children with Special Needs (CwSN), student support on school reopening and teacher capacity building.

To ensure greater participation of girls in schools and to reduce drop-out rate of girls, various interventions have been targeted under Samagra Shiksha which include opening of schools in the neighbourhood as defined by the State, provision of free text-books & uniforms to girls up to Class VIII, provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools, teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls' participation, provision for self-defence training for the girls from classes VI to XII, stipend to CwSN girls from class I to Class XII, construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas/in areas with difficult terrain, vocationalization of secondary education, special projects for equity such as life skills, awareness programmes, incinerators, sanitary pad vending machines.

Under the scheme, "Samagra Shiksha", financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories for various activities to reducing dropout rate of students including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level; and to construction of school buildings & additional classrooms; setting up of the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas and to provide to students' free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and to do enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for aged-appropriate

admission of out of school children; and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system.

Since 2021-22, financial assistance upto Rs. 2000 per annum is being provided for supporting Out of School Children including migrant children of age group of 16-19 years, belonging to socio economically disadvantaged groups, for completing their education through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) / State Institute of Open Schooling (SIOS) for accessing course materials and certification.
