

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5178**  
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

**Literacy Rate**

**5178. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the illiteracy in India is alarming and 74.04% of people were counted as literate as per 2011 Census;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note that there is a wide disparity in illiteracy between rural and urban areas and male and female population and also the condition in villages is worse than in cities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the percentage of existing illiteracy calculated in India as on date, State-wise;
- (e) the other action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve 100% literacy in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (f) : 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%.

As per Census 2011, the literacy rate in rural areas across the country is 67.77% (Male : 77.15% and Female : 57.93%) compared to the urban literacy rate of 84.11% (Male : 88.76% and Female : 79.11%).

As per 2011 Census, the State-wise literacy rate in India is at **Annexure**.

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 Government 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.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5178 FOR 03.04.2023 ASKED BY DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR, HONOURABLE MP REGARDING “LITERACY RATE”.**

State/UT and gender-wise literacy rate in the country in the age group of 7 and above, as per census 2011

S. No.	Name of States / UTs	Literacy Rate		
		Persons	Male	Female
	<b>India</b>	<b>72.98</b>	<b>80.88</b>	<b>64.63</b>
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	86.63	90.27	82.43
2.	Andhra Pradesh	67.02	74.88	59.15
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	65.38	72.55	57.70
4.	Assam	72.19	77.85	66.27
5.	Bihar	61.80	71.20	51.50
6.	Chandigarh	86.05	89.99	81.19
7.	Chhattisgarh	70.28	80.27	60.24
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	76.24	85.17	64.32
9.	Daman & Diu	87.10	91.54	79.55
10.	Goa	88.70	92.65	84.66
11.	Gujarat	78.03	85.75	69.68
12.	Haryana	75.55	84.06	65.94
13.	Himachal Pradesh	82.80	89.53	75.93
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	67.16	76.75	56.43
15.	Jharkhand	66.41	76.84	55.42
16.	Karnataka	75.36	82.47	68.08
17.	Kerala	94.00	96.11	92.07
18.	Lakshadweep	91.85	95.56	87.95
19.	Madhya Pradesh	69.32	78.73	59.24
20.	Maharashtra	82.34	88.38	75.87
21.	Manipur	76.94	83.58	70.26
22.	Meghalaya	74.43	75.95	72.89
23.	Mizoram	91.33	93.35	89.27
24.	Nagaland	79.55	82.75	76.11
25.	NCT of Delhi	86.21	90.94	80.76
26.	Odisha	72.87	81.59	64.01
27.	Puducherry	85.85	91.26	80.67
28.	Punjab	75.84	80.44	70.73
29.	Rajasthan	66.11	79.19	52.12
30.	Sikkim	81.42	86.55	75.61
31.	Tamil Nadu	80.09	86.77	73.44
32.	Tripura	87.22	91.53	82.73
33.	Uttar Pradesh	67.68	77.28	57.18
34.	Uttarakhand	78.82	87.40	70.01
35.	West Bengal	76.26	81.69	70.54