

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2019

Literacy Rate

1264. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the literacy rate has increased very slowly in the country;
- (b) if so, whether it is also true that the country's literacy rate is far behind to many other countries; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken/being taken to improve the literacy rate in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) & (b) No Sir. The literacy rate in the country has increased substantially from 18.33 per cent in 1951 to 64.84 per cent in 2001 and 72.98 per cent in 2011, in the age group of 7 and above.

UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2019 has stated the adult literacy rate in the year 2017 of Indonesia as 95 per cent, Thailand 93 per cent, Bangladesh 73 per cent, Pakistan 57 per cent, Sri Lanka 92 per cent, Iraq 44 per cent, Angola 66 per cent, Burundi 62 per cent, Senegal 52 per cent, Malawi 62 per cent and Mozambique 56 per cent. However, Census 2011 has reported the adult literacy rate (in the age group of 15 and above) in the country as 69.28 per cent.

(c) In order to improve the literacy rate in the country, the scheme of Saakshar Bharat was implemented in the rural areas of 410 districts in 26 States and one UT, that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001, including left wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rates, with special focus on women and other disadvantaged groups, since October 2009.

In addition, the Department of School Education and Literacy has launched the Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Scheme for School Education as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 2018-19. This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). Samagra Shiksha is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.
