

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4138**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022

**ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY**

4138. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government aims to ensure complete eradication of illiteracy in the country by 2030 and is assisting financially through State literacy mission programme;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of adult illiterates in india is around 35 per cent of the world's total adult illiterates and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and gender-wise; and
- (c) the detail report of Niti Aayog which has underlined 112 aspirational districts and the reasons behind for zero budget allocation for adult education programme against Rs. 250 crore allocation during 2021-22 thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) In order to achieve universal literacy, the Department of School Education and Literacy has launched the Samagra Shiksha in school education system as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from Financial Year 2018-19. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. The States/UTs 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 gaps 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 has now been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 that is to ensure inclusive and equitable, quality and holistic school education. The scheme was initially approved from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and has now been revised and extended upto 2025-26.

In order to improve the literacy rate among adults in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Adult Education namely Saakshar Bharat was implemented in the rural areas of 404 districts in 26 States and one UT, that had adult female literacy rate of 50 percent

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, till March 2018. The target was to raise the overall literacy rate of the country to 80 per cent and reduce gender gap to 10 percentage point by end of XII five year plan. During the implementation of Saakshar Bharat scheme, against the overall target of making 7 crore adult non-literate, around 7.64 crore learners, passed the biannual Basic Literacy Assessment Tests conducted by National Institute of Open Schooling, between August, 2010 to March, 2018, were certified as literates.

Further, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Adult Education “Padhna Likhna Abhiyaan” is being implemented in the Country during the financial year 2020-22, with a target of making 48.16 lakh adult non-literates as literates. After that, the Union of India has approved a new Scheme, namely, “New India Literacy Programme (NILP)” to align with the NEP and support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates across the country covering 5 crore non-literates. The scheme has been approved 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.

(b) The literacy data in the country is collected through decennial census operation conducted by Registrar General of India. The last Census was held in 2011. A statement containing the details of state-wise and gender-wise details of adult illiterates across the country as per Census 2011 is at **Annexure-I**.

(c) Aspirational Districts Programme was launched in 2018 to bring rapid transformation in the relatively underdeveloped Districts. There are 112 Aspirational Districts, across 26 States and 1 Union Territory. These were selected through a transparent process on the basis of published data. A statement indicating the list of Aspirational Districts is at **Annexure – II**.

The budget allocation for Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Adult Education “Padhna Likhna Abhiyaan” was Rs.95.25 Crore during 2020-21. The Union of India has approved a new Scheme, namely, “New India Literacy Programme (NILP)” to align with the NEP and support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates across the country covering 5 crore non-literates. The scheme has been approved 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-I**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4138 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022 ASKED BY SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE, HONOURABLE MP REGARDING “ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY”.**

**State/gender-wise illiterates in the age group of 15 and above across the Country**

**(As per Census 2011)**

Sl. No.	INDIA/STATES/ UTs	ILLITERATES		
		Persons	Males	Females
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>257,583,612</b>	<b>90,764,463</b>	<b>166,819,149</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	23,706,198	8,909,979	14,796,219
2	Arunachal Pradesh	337,961	134,798	203,163
3	Assam	6,507,021	2,563,030	3,943,991
4	Bihar	27,815,648	10,604,882	17,210,766
5	Chhattisgarh	6,018,276	1,935,855	4,082,421
6	Goa	139,997	44,700	95,297
7	Gujarat	10,758,275	3,519,602	7,238,673
8	Haryana	4,994,133	1,677,050	3,317,083
9	Himachal Pradesh	999,020	297,977	701,043
10	Jammu & Kashmir	3,094,495	1,127,233	1,967,262
11	Jharkhand	8,360,017	2,862,471	5,497,546
12	Karnataka	12,675,423	4,497,075	8,178,348
13	Kerala	1,672,259	489,932	1,182,327
14	Madhya Pradesh	17,424,138	6,041,370	11,382,768
15	Maharashtra	16,303,772	5,354,061	10,949,711
16	Manipur	483,884	160,964	322,920
17	Meghalaya	486,043	220,536	265,507
18	Mizoram	64,365	23,773	40,592
19	Nagaland	274,593	114,927	159,666
20	Odisha	9,152,901	3,033,715	6,119,186
21	Punjab	5,572,929	2,332,211	3,240,718
22	Rajasthan	17,808,955	5,493,962	12,314,993
23	Sikkim	93,412	34,933	58,479
24	Tamil Nadu	12,430,529	4,050,303	8,380,226
25	Tripura	378,059	123,151	254,908
26	Uttar Pradesh	48,272,087	16,990,712	31,281,375
27	Uttarakhand	1,707,156	485,876	1,221,280
28	West Bengal	17,787,577	6,876,146	10,911,431
29	A & N Island	43,079	16,507	26,572
30	Chandigarh	119,576	46,201	73,375
31	D & N Haveli	65,947	23,262	42,685
32	Daman & Diu	26,236	10,651	15,585
33	Lakshadweep	4,029	993	3,036
34	NCT of Delhi	1,857,501	622,940	1,234,561
35	Puducherry	148,121	42,685	105,436

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**List of Aspirational Districts**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/ UT</b>	<b>Total No. of Aspirational districts</b>	<b>Name of the aspirational districts</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Y.S.R Kadapa
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Namsai
3	Assam	7	Goalpara, Barpeta, Hailakandi, Baksa, Darrang, Udalguri, Dhubri
4	Bihar	13	Sitamarhi, Araria, Purnia, Katihar, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Banka, Sheikhpura, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui
5	Chattisgarh	10	Korba, Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund, Kanker, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur, Bastar, Kondagaon, Sukma
6	Gujarat	2	Dahod, Narmada
7	Haryana	1	Mewat
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	Chamba
9	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	2	Kupwara, Baramulla
10	Jharkhand	19	Garhwa, Chatra, Giridih, Godda, Sahibganj, Pakur, Bokaro, Lohardaga, Purbi Singhbhum, Palamu, Latehar, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Dumka, Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla, Simdega, Pashchimi Singhbhum
11	Karnataka	2	Raichur, Yadgir
12	Kerala	1	Wayanad
13	Madhya Pradesh	8	Chhatarpur, Damoh, Barwani, Rajgarh, Vidisha, Guna, Singrauli, Khandwa
14	Maharashtra	4	Nandurbar, Washim, Gadchiroli, Osmanabad
15	Manipur	1	Chandel
16	Meghalaya	1	Ribhoi
17	Mizoram	1	Mamit
18	Nagaland	1	Kiphire
19	Odisha	10	Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Balangir, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapda
20	Punjab	2	Moga, Firozpur
21	Rajasthan	5	Dholpur, Karauli, Jaisalmer, Sirohi, Baran
22	Sikkim	1	West Sikkim
23	Tamil Nadu	2	Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram
24	Telangana	3	Asifabad, Bhoopalapally, Bhadradri-Kothagudem
25	Tripura	1	Dhalai
26	Uttar Pradesh	8	Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Bahraich, Shrawasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Chandauli, Sonbhadra
27	Uttarakhand	2	Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar
<b>Total</b>		<b>112</b>	