

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2507
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

Literacy Rate among Muslims

2507. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:
SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the reasons behind very low literacy rate among Muslims in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to open more schools in the Muslim populated areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per 2011 Census, the literacy rate of Muslims in India is 68.54%, less than the national average of 72.98%.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government of India for improvement of literacy in the country, including Muslims:-

(i) The Department of School Education and Literacy with effect from 2018-19 launched an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha. The scheme has now been aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

(ii) In order to improve literacy rate, 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 including Muslims since October 2009. The scheme was extended upto 31.03.2019. During the implementation of Saakshar Bharat scheme, against the overall target of making 7.00 crore (including 1.20 crore Muslims) adult non-literates as literates, around 7.64 crore learners, having 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.

(iii) Further, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Adult Education “Padhna Likhna Abhiyan” was implemented in rural and urban areas of 33 State/UTs during the financial year 2020-21, with a target of making 48.16 lakh adult non-literates as literates. Its focus was on women, SCs, STs, Minorities (including Muslims) and other disadvantaged groups. The scheme was extended upto 31.03.2022.

(iv) A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, “New India Literacy Programme” has been approved for implementation during 2022-23 to 2026-27 across the country with special focus on non-literates of socially and economically disadvantaged groups, with priority to girls/women, SC/ST/OBC, minorities including Muslims, persons with Special Needs/Divyangjans, Marginalized/Nomadics, Construction Workers/Labourers, etc.

(c) to (e): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and opening of schools is within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration-which are the appropriate Government under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

In pursuance to Section 6 of the Act, the States have notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms in their state RTE Rules, factoring in their State specific condition, for opening of schools.
