

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2219**

ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

**RURAL LITERACY RATE**

2219. Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of increase in rural literacy rate during the last five years;
- (b) whether the Government's initiatives contributed in increase in rural literacy rate, if so, the comparative analysis thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any data on the gender gap in rural literacy during the last five years, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the difficulties being faced in achieving 100% rural literacy, and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard especially in Andhra Pradesh?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the rural literacy rate including gender gap during the last five years is depicted in the following table:

(in per cent)

| India                                                    | Gender                      | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Rural Literacy Rate in last 5 years. (7 years and above) | Male                        | 81.9    | 82.2    | 83.2    | 83.5    | 83.6    |
|                                                          | Female                      | 65.7    | 66.3    | 67.7    | 68.9    | 70.3    |
|                                                          | Total                       | 73.9    | 74.3    | 75.6    | 76.3    | 77.0    |
|                                                          | Gender gap in literacy rate | 16.2    | 15.9    | 15.5    | 14.6    | 13.3    |

As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the rural literacy has increased whereas gender gap has reduced in the last five years.

In order to improve the literacy rate including rural literacy rate among adults in the country Government of India has launched many schemes/programmes from time to time like Saakshar Bharat Abhiyan, Padhna Likhna Abhiyan and ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram/NILP.

The Government of India has approved a centrally sponsored scheme called Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram (NILP), popularly known as ULLAS: Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022. The scheme, aligned with NEP 2020, targets adults (aged 15 and above) who couldn't go to school and focuses on rural areas, educationally backward areas, women etc. With continuous efforts, under ULLAS, more than 77 lakh learners have already appeared in the Literacy Test named Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) from 28 States/UTs.

A large number of population with multiple languages prevalent in the country, multiple culture contexts, and unstructured learning arrangements are the difficulties faced so far in achieving 100% rural literacy. The scheme is implemented in both offline & online mode, considering the above. The teaching and learning is done by volunteers in the scheme. Andhra Pradesh is also implementing the scheme ULLAS, however as yet, it has not conducted any FLNAT in the State.

