

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2295

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

Rural Literacy Rate

2295. Smt. Shambhavi:

Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde:

Shri Naresh Ganpat Mhaske:

Shri Rajesh Verma:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the data about increase in rural literacy rate in the last decade;
- (b) whether the Government initiatives have contributed most significantly to this increase, if so, the comparative analysis thereof;
- (c) the data on the gender gap in rural literacy during the last ten years; and
- (d) the challenges being faced by the the Government in achieving 100% rural literacy and the steps being taken by the Government to address them especially in Maharashtra and Bihar?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The increase in rural literacy rate from the last decade is as under:

(in per cent)

Rural Literacy Rate (7 years and above)	2011 (as per census 2011)	2023-24 (as per PLFS 2023-24)
	67.77	77.5

The gender gap in Rural Literacy Rate during the last ten years is as under:

(in per cent)

Gender wise Rural Literacy Rate (7 years and above)	2011 (as per census 2011)		2023-24 (as per PLFS 2023-24)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	77.15	57.93	84.7	70.4

In order to improve the literacy rate including rural literacy rate among adults in the country, Government of India has launched many Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes from time to time like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (2018-19 to 2025-26), Saakshar Bharat (2009-10 to 2017-18), Padhna Likhna Abhiyan(2020-21 to 2021-22) and ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram/NILP(2022-23 to 2026-27) resulting in positive outcomes.

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 1st April, 2022 upto 2027. The scheme, aligned with NEP 2020, targets adults (aged 15 years and above) who couldn't go to school and focuses on rural areas, educationally backward areas, women etc. The scheme is implemented in a hybrid mode, States/UTs have flexibility in offline, online, or combined approaches. The scheme has five components, namely: (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Basic Education, (iv) Vocational Skills, and (v) Continuing Education. A dedicated ULLAS Mobile App has been developed for registering learners and volunteer teachers and also enables teaching learning process by providing access to primers in 26 languages. With continuous efforts, under ULLAS, more than 2 Crore learners have been registered and more than 1 Crore learners have already appeared in the Literacy Test named Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) across the country.

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. Maharashtra is also implementing the scheme and more than 10.87 lakh learners have been registered under the ULLAS scheme. The State has conducted its First FLNAT in which more than 4 Lakh Learners have appeared in the examination. The state Bihar has not implemented the ULLAS scheme yet.
