

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 615
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025**

LITERACY RATE AMONG TRIBAL WOMEN

615. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the low literacy rate among tribal women, who face multiple challenges such as geographic isolation, poverty and socio-cultural barriers;
- (b) the details of targeted programmes such as women-centric literacy campaigns, establishment of residential schools for tribal girls and provision of scholarships or financial incentives to encourage their education;
- (c) whether the Government has any data on the literacy rates of Scheduled Tribes (STs) including separate figures for men and women and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the current Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of STs at the level of school education, including primary, secondary and senior secondary school levels, as well as in higher education; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any specific initiatives to increase the GER among STs, particularly in remote and underserved areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) & (b) and (e):

Ministry of Tribal affairs has taken many steps to address the low literacy and education rate among tribal women. Development of Tribal women has been a major focus of all MoTA schemes. Three PVTGs, Scholarship EMRS, emphasises on the tribal girls so that low literacy will be removed from this communities.

(i) PVTGs an PM JANMAN: There are certain groups among tribal populations which have declining or stagnant members, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward. These groups generally inhabit remote localities and have poor infrastructure and administrative support. 75 such groups in 18 States and one UT have been identified and categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). While PVTG communities are being assisted in all the schemes of Central Government, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Tribal Welfare Departments of the State Governments, a dedicated scheme was started for such communities in 1998-99. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme exclusively for development of PVTGs and 100% funded by Central Government.

Government has recently launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PMJANMAN) with financial outlay of around Rs.24,000 crores that aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. PM-JANMAN focuses on 11 critical interventions to cover all the eligible PVTG beneficiaries / PVTG villages & habitations based on the existing gaps being captured through mobile app developed for the purpose.

(ii) EMRS: The Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was started in the year 2018-19 to provide quality education at par with Navodaya Vidyalaya to the tribal children in their own environment. Under the new scheme, Government decided to establish 440 EMRSs, one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). 288 EMRS schools were initially funded under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, which are being upgraded as per the new model. Accordingly, Ministry has set the target to set up total of 728 EMRSs benefiting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country. As on date, 718 schools have been sanctioned, out of which 476 EMRSs have been reported to be functional across the country benefiting about 1.36 lakh students. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under Ministry of Tribal Affairs managing and implementing scheme of EMRS.

(iii) Scholarship Division of Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements following ongoing Schemes for providing scholarships to ST students in the country: -

i. Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class IX and X) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through State/UT administrations. The inviting of applications, processing/verification of applications and disbursement of scholarship is responsibility of State/UT.

ii. Post Matric Scholarship for ST students. (Class XI and above) Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through State/UT administrations. The inviting of applications, processing/verification of applications and disbursement of scholarship is responsibility of State/UT.

iii. National Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students (Top Class)

iv. National Fellowship for ST students (NFST). This is also central sector scheme it has two sub-schemes that is (a) national scholarship schemes for higher education schemes for STs students. It is provided for pursuing graduate post graduate courses in Top Class Institutes (b) this is for students pursuing M.Phil or Ph.D in India after completion of Master degree.

v. National Overseas Scholarship for ST students. This is also central sector scheme for which scholarship is given to ST students for pursuing higher education in Top 1000 ranked Institutes/University abroad.

(iv) NGO: Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the scheme of “Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes” under which the grants are provided to the Non-Governmental Organizations/ Voluntary Organizations working in the sector of Education, Health & Livelihood. The Grants are provided after their online application, providing relevant information, duly recommended by the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

Under the scheme, for strengthening education of ST girls in low literacy districts, there is special focus where ST Population is 25% or more and ST female literacy rate is below 35% as per latest census.

(c) Yes, the Literacy figure related to Scheduled Tribes for men & women as per census 2011, State-wise is as follows:

Literacy Rates of All Population, ST Population and Gaps: Census 2011

Sl. No	State / UT	Persons			Male			Female		
		All	ST	Gap	All	ST	Gap	All	ST	Gap
	INDIA	73	59	14.0	80.9	68.5	12.4	64.6	49.4	15.2
1	Jammu & Kashmir	67.2	50.6	16.6	76.8	60.6	16.2	56.4	39.7	16.7
2	Himachal Pradesh	82.8	73.6	9.2	89.5	83.2	6.3	75.9	64.2	11.7
3	Uttarakhand	78.8	73.9	4.9	87.4	83.6	3.8	70	63.9	6.1
4	Rajasthan	66.1	52.8	13.3	79.2	67.6	11.6	52.1	37.3	14.8

5	Uttar Pradesh	67.7	55.7	12.0	77.3	67.1	10.2	57.2	43.7	13.5
6	Bihar	61.8	51.1	10.7	71.2	61.3	9.9	51.5	40.4	11.1
7	Sikkim	81.4	79.7	1.7	86.6	85	1.6	75.6	74.3	1.3
8	Arunachal Pradesh	65.4	64.6	0.8	72.6	71.5	1.1	57.7	58	-0.3
9	Nagaland	79.6	80	-0.4	82.8	83.1	-0.3	76.1	76.9	-0.8
10	Manipur	76.9	72.6	4.3	83.6	77.3	6.3	70.3	67.8	2.5
11	Mizoram	91.3	91.5	-0.2	93.3	93.6	-0.3	89.3	89.5	-0.2
12	Tripura	87.2	79.1	8.1	91.5	86.4	5.1	82.7	71.6	11.1
13	Meghalaya	74.4	74.5	-0.1	76	75.5	0.5	72.9	73.5	-0.6
14	Assam	72.2	72.1	0.1	77.8	79	-1.2	66.3	65.1	1.2
15	West Bengal	76.3	57.9	18.4	81.7	68.2	13.5	70.5	47.7	22.8
16	Jharkhand	66.4	57.1	9.3	76.8	68.2	8.6	55.4	46.2	9.2
17	Odisha	72.9	52.2	20.7	81.6	63.7	17.9	64	41.2	22.8
18	Chhattisgarh	70.3	59.1	11.2	80.3	69.7	10.6	60.2	48.8	11.4
19	Madhya Pradesh	69.3	50.6	18.7	78.7	59.6	19.1	59.2	41.5	17.7
20	Gujarat	78	62.5	15.5	85.8	71.7	14.1	69.7	53.2	16.5
21	Daman & Diu	87.1	78.8	8.3	91.5	86.2	5.3	79.5	71.2	8.3
22	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	76.2	61.9	14.3	85.2	73.6	11.6	64.3	50.3	14
23	Maharashtra	82.3	65.7	16.6	88.4	74.3	14.1	75.9	57	18.9
24	Telangana	66.5	49.5	17.0	75	59.5	15.5	57.9	39.4	18.5
25	Andhra Pradesh	67.4	48.8	18.6	74.8	56.9	17.9	60	40.9	19.1
26	Karnataka	75.4	62.1	13.3	82.5	71.1	11.4	68.1	53	15.1
27	Goa	88.7	79.1	9.6	92.6	87.2	5.4	84.7	71.5	13.2
28	Lakshadweep	91.8	91.7	0.1	95.6	95.7	-0.1	87.9	87.8	0.1
29	Kerala	94	75.8	18.2	96.1	80.8	15.3	92.1	71.1	21

30	Tamil Nadu	80.1	54.3	25.8	86.8	61.8	25	73.4	46.8	26.6
31	A & N Islands	86.6	75.6	11.0	90.3	80.9	9.4	82.4	69.9	12.5

Note: No Notified Scheduled Tribes in Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry as in 2011

(d) :The current Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of STs at the level of school education, including primary, secondary and senior secondary school levels, as well as in higher education as per M/o Education Udise Plus 2023-24 given below:-

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), 2023-24: Scheduled Tribes (ST)

India/State/ UT	Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) - Scheduled Tribes (ST)														
	Primary (1 to 5)			Upper Primary (6 to 8)			Elementary (1 to 8)			Secondary (9-10)			Higher Secondary (11-12)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
India	98.0	98.6	98.3	94.8	95.6	95.2	96.8	97.4	97.1	75.4	78.5	76.9	46.0	51.4	48.7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	86.3	94.4	90.0	95.7	108.0	101.3	89.8	99.5	94.3	77.7	90.5	83.7	65.3	86.3	75.2
Andhra Pradesh	116.0	121.2	118.5	112.5	115.1	113.7	114.7	119.0	116.8	96.0	97.2	96.6	66.1	72.0	69.0
Arunachal Pradesh	109.3	112.8	111.0	83.8	91.0	87.4	98.9	103.7	101.2	65.6	69.5	67.5	48.7	53.2	51.0
Assam	117.9	124.3	121.0	99.7	104.7	102.1	110.7	116.4	113.5	92.5	96.8	94.7	53.7	53.0	53.3
Bihar	127.5	123.9	125.8	95.3	96.8	96.0	115.5	113.6	114.6	57.1	60.9	59.0	45.9	48.9	47.4
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	87.7	88.2	87.9	87.0	87.7	87.4	87.5	88.0	87.7	63.4	72.4	67.8	39.8	53.4	46.6
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	65.9	71.4	68.5	64.0	68.6	66.2	65.1	70.3	67.6	66.0	76.1	70.7	25.6	34.9	29.9
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goa	62.7	68.6	65.5	66.0	71.0	68.4	64.0	69.5	66.6	60.9	71.6	65.9	63.2	72.1	67.6
Gujarat	81.7	80.9	81.3	95.8	94.8	95.3	86.8	85.9	86.4	76.9	75.9	76.4	36.2	46.8	41.3
Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	97.8	100.8	99.2	99.4	100.9	100.1	98.4	100.8	99.6	98.8	97.6	98.2	79.6	80.8	80.2
Jammu and Kashmir	142.6	136.4	139.5	84.2	86.6	85.3	117.0	115.6	116.3	65.4	62.3	64.0	32.1	28.8	30.6

Jharkhand	99.1	101.6	100.3	82.3	84.8	83.6	92.8	95.1	93.9	55.1	60.2	57.7	32.4	37.2	34.8
Karnataka	105.2	106.0	105.6	105.3	103.5	104.4	105.3	105.0	105.2	96.0	98.3	97.2	47.0	58.0	52.2
Kerala	88.7	91.7	90.2	94.9	92.1	93.5	91.1	91.8	91.5	103.4	95.7	99.6	89.9	100.7	95.2
Ladakh	71.3	76.5	73.8	55.2	67.0	60.7	65.0	72.9	68.7	55.6	66.3	60.8	29.5	36.4	32.8
Lakshadweep	72.4	74.0	73.1	59.5	60.3	60.0	67.6	68.3	67.9	52.8	55.7	54.2	55.1	48.2	51.5
Madhya Pradesh	80.9	79.4	80.2	87.8	83.2	85.5	83.2	80.7	82.0	56.1	56.3	56.2	30.9	35.0	32.9
Maharashtra	101.0	104.7	102.8	96.9	100.6	98.6	99.4	103.2	101.2	90.7	91.5	91.1	54.7	54.4	54.6
Manipur	124.0	131.5	127.5	66.2	72.1	69.0	99.5	106.2	102.7	50.9	57.0	53.8	29.7	32.6	31.2
Meghalaya	182.1	185.7	183.9	106.8	127.7	117.1	152.0	162.2	157.0	73.0	98.0	85.4	31.9	47.4	39.6
Mizoram	154.4	155.5	154.9	113.4	117.7	115.5	137.9	140.2	139.0	94.9	105.8	100.2	50.8	58.6	54.7
Nagaland	85.7	89.5	87.5	66.4	72.9	69.5	77.6	82.6	80.0	54.8	64.1	59.3	36.6	43.4	40.0
Odisha	93.6	92.1	92.8	107.6	107.4	107.5	98.5	97.4	98.0	84.6	89.6	87.1	52.0	58.7	55.3
Puducherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	97.8	98.1	97.9	98.3	97.1	97.7	98.0	97.7	97.9	80.3	79.4	79.8	59.1	57.8	58.5
Sikkim	101.3	92.7	97.1	76.6	79.1	77.8	90.5	86.7	88.6	72.9	78.8	75.8	56.1	68.1	62.1
Tamil Nadu	110.7	112.6	111.6	116.2	115.4	115.8	112.7	113.6	113.1	97.3	103.3	100.1	69.2	85.6	77.0
Telangana	97.8	96.6	97.2	98.1	97.9	98.0	97.9	97.1	97.5	82.6	85.0	83.8	70.7	79.3	74.8
Tripura	119.5	123.3	121.3	91.9	95.4	93.6	107.9	111.5	109.6	69.0	76.5	72.6	47.7	56.7	52.0
Uttar Pradesh	128.6	125.3	127.0	134.9	134.5	134.7	130.7	128.4	129.6	136.5	134.8	135.7	134.5	131.6	133.1
Uttarakhand	87.5	92.9	90.0	77.2	79.9	78.5	83.2	87.5	85.2	73.4	75.3	74.3	60.1	64.5	62.2
West Bengal	109.0	110.1	109.6	104.7	106.8	105.8	107.4	108.9	108.1	100.1	108.1	104.0	49.8	63.8	56.7

Source: UDISE+2023-24
