

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 100

ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

LOW LITERACY RATE

100. Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of literacy rate in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of reasons behind low literacy rate in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to attain 100 per cent literacy in the country within fixed timeframe and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for not implementing a dream project to attain 100 per cent literacy in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Report 2023-24 conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the latest literacy rate in the age group of 7 years and above is 80.9%. A table indicating literacy rate in the country, State/UT-wise, based on PLFS Report is placed at **Annexure - I**. Various factors viz. poverty, gender and social inequalities etc. impact the literacy in the country.

(c) & (d) : The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 refers to Adult Education and Lifelong Learning at para 21.4, which states that :

“Strong and innovative government initiatives for adult education in particular, to facilitate community involvement and the smooth and beneficial integration of technology - will be affected as soon as possible to expedite this all important aim of achieving 100% literacy”.

Coupled with these recommendations of NEP-2020 on Adult Education, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.6 of the United Nations mandates that: “By 2030 ensure that all youth and adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy”.

Towards this purpose, Government of India is implementing ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram from 2022 to 2027. The scheme aligned with the NEP 2020, targets adults (aged 15 and above) who missed formal education with a particular focus on rural areas, educationally backward areas, women etc.

For India, Full Literacy has been defined as the ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension, i.e. to identify, understand, interpret and create, along with critical life skills such as digital literacy, financial literacy, etc. This definition is in line with the international definition of Literacy by UNESCO. A State/UT is declared as Fully Literate upon attaining at least 95% literacy. Four States/UT namely Ladakh, Mizoram, Goa, and Tripura have become fully literate under ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 100 FOR 21.07.2025 ASKED BY SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL, HON'BLE MP REGARDING "LOW LITERACY RATE".

State/UT literacy rate (in per cent) in the country in the age group of 7 and above, as per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Report 2023-24 conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

Sl. No.	States/UT	Age-group (Years) 7 & above
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	84.20
3.	Assam	87.00
4.	Bihar	74.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	78.50
6.	Delhi	86.90
7.	Goa	93.60
8.	Gujarat	84.60
9.	Haryana	84.80
10.	Himachal Pradesh	88.80
11.	Jharkhand	76.70
12.	Karnataka	82.70
13.	Kerala	95.30
14.	Madhya Pradesh	75.20
15.	Maharashtra	87.30
16.	Manipur	92.00
17.	Meghalaya	94.20
18.	Mizoram	98.20
19.	Nagaland	95.70
20.	Odisha	79.00
21.	Punjab	83.40
22.	Rajasthan	75.80
23.	Sikkim	84.70
24.	Tamil Nadu	85.50
25.	Telangana	76.90
26.	Tripura	93.70
27.	Uttarakhand	83.80
28.	Uttar Pradesh	78.20
29.	West Bengal	82.60
30.	Andaman & N. Island	91.10
31.	Chandigarh	93.70
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	87.80
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	82.00
34.	Ladakh	81.00
35.	Lakshadweep	97.30
36.	Puducherry	92.70
	All India	80.90

