

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1241

ANSWERED ON 28-07-2025

LITERACY UNDER ULLAS

†1241. Shri Radheshyam Rathiya:
Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary:
Shri Kanwar Singh Tanwar:
Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai:
Shri Khagen Murmu:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Government to declare a State as “Fully Literate” under Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) – the Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakaram;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken for certified learners to pursue further vocational training or continuing education pathways;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of female learners certified under the said scheme and its impact on educational gender equality;
- (e) whether the scheme is likely to help in bridging regional disparities and improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER); and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) : The definition of ‘Literacy’ and ‘Full Literacy’ in context with ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram is :

“Literacy is the ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension, i.e to identify, understand, interpret and create, alongwith critical life skills such as digital literacy, financial literacy, etc.”

“Achieving ninety five percent literacy (95%) in a State/UT may be considered as equivalent to fully literate”.

(b) and (c) : The ULLAS scheme has five components, viz. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education (Equivalency), Vocational Skills Development and Continuing Education. In convergence with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), communication has been sent to all the States/UTs to enable Neo-Literates under ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakaram to benefit from appropriate scheme of MSDE with the aim of providing vocational skill training for obtaining local employment, reskilling and upskilling. Further, States and UTs have been directed to facilitate the enrolment of Neo-Literates under the Open Basic Education (OBE) Programme of NIOS. The NIOS OBE programme presents an pathway for these learners, allowing them to enroll in A, B, and C level courses which are equivalent to classes III, V, and VIII or directly in the Secondary Level programme (equivalent to class X), depending on their competency and interest.

(d): Government of India is implementing ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram from 2022 to 2027. Under ULLAS, the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (FLNAT) is conducted by States/UTs to assess three skills, i.e. Reading with Understanding, Writing and Numeracy. With continuous efforts under ULLAS, 1.49 crore learners have become Neo- Literates, out of which 1.01 Crore are female. The inclusion of large numbers of adult women under ULLAS has contributed to increase in educational gender equality.

The female literacy rate in the age group of seven years and above as per census 2011 is 65.46%. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Report 2023-24, conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, female literacy rate in the age group of 7 years and above is 74.6%. This shows the increase in the female literacy rate and improvement in educational gender equality.

(e) and (f) : The scheme aligned with the NEP 2020, targets adults (aged 15 and above) who missed formal education with a particular focus on rural and urban areas especially Educationally Backward areas, Women, Persons with Special Needs / Divyangjans, Marginalized/Nomads/Construction Workers/Labourers, etc. contributing towards reducing regional disparities.
