

[10 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

reservation for women in professional courses, including those in management. Information with regard to reservation for women in Medical courses is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Adult Literacy Rate

1049. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present adult literacy rate in country, State-wise;
- (b) how does this compare with other developing countries in the world;
- (c) whether any proposal to launch new programmes, aimed at increasing adult literacy in the country, is under consideration of Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL):

(a) According to the National Sample Survey Organisation in the 53rd round the literacy rate in the country State-wise, during 1997 is given in the enclosed statement (*see below*).

(b) India has now outstripped countries such as Nigeria, Iraq, Egypt, Ghana, Saudi Arabia and Uganda and is far a head of its neighbours, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

(c) and (d) No proposal to launch any new programme to raise the adult literacy rate in the country is envisaged. However, several steps have been taken to revamp and reorient the adult literacy programmes which include the enhanced focus on female literacy; greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations; strengthening of State Resource Centres; opening of Shramik Vidyapeeths in rural areas; decentralisation of financial and administrative powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities; ensuring better follow up and consolidation through extending the programme of post literacy and continuing education etc.

Condition of National library, Calcutta

†1050. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.