

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED
QUESTIONS SET FOR MONDAY, THE 5TH MARCH, 2007***

Decrease in the number of classrooms

*81. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of classrooms in Government primary schools has been decreasing in recent years in certain States and Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per District Information System of Education (DISE) the average number of classrooms per Government primary school has remained constant at an average of 2.4 during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 nationally. In the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Kerala, M.P and Meghalaya a marginal decrease is shown due to the time taken in constructing of a new primary school after its notification. This leads to an increase in the number of primary schools, without a corresponding rise in the number of classrooms, in annual statistics.

Literacy among Muslim families

†*82. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such Muslim families in the country in which no family member is literate;

(b) whether any survey etc. has been done in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

* The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 5th March, 2007 was cancelled. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 6th March, 2007.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the steps Government have taken so far to make such families literate; and

(d) the number of illiterate muslim families and the amount of money allotted during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the 2001 Census, out of 22 million Muslim households, 4 million households have one or more illiterate members. So far, 597 districts in States/Union Territories have been covered under various adult literacy programmes like Total Literacy Campaign, Post Literacy Programme and Continuing Education targeting the age-group of 15-35 years. In these programmes, all sections of the population including Muslims have been covered. However, no data is maintained on the community-wise coverage of beneficiaries.

The educational development-programmes are individual oriented, funds are not allotted family-wise.

Modernization of Meteorological Department

*83. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to modernize the country's Meteorological Department to be able to provide agriculture related weather information which is crucial for optimal agricultural production, to farmers in all the 600 districts in the country:

(b) if so, whether the entire process will take about five-six years;

(c) if so, whether the system needs to be modernized and the basic structure will be ready by 2008;

(d) if so, the other plans for revamping the Meteorological Department; and

(e) to what extent it will be modernized?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.