

Illiteracy

†655. PROF. MM. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as on date more than 36 crore persons are illiterate in the country;

(b) whether Government have formulated any time-bound programme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps being taken by Government to increase the literacy rate as well as to educate the illiterate people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per Census 2001, there were 30.41 crore non-literates in 7+age-group in the country.

(b) to (d) In the Elementary Education Sector, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been launched with a holistic and convergent approach, to implement Universalisation of Elementary Education in a mission mode with district focus. The goals of SSA are:

- All children in School, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003.
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007.
- All children complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- Universal retention by 2010.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to provide functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 age group. The target of NLM is to attain a sustainable threshold literacy rate of 75% of 2007. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, to organize residual illiteracy projects in areas, which have substantial number of illiterates, and to set up continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life long learning to the neo-literates.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.