

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	60.78
16.	Manipur	57.59
17.	Meghalaya	58.62
18.	Mizoram	86.87
19.	Nagaland	58.57
20.	Orissa	45.06
21.	Punjab	57.82
22.	Rajasthan	35.59
23.	Sikkim	54.76
24.	Tamil Nadu	59.27
25.	Tripura	60.24
26.	Uttar Pradesh	34.28
27.	Uttarakhand	51.93
28.	West Bengal	54.74
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	71.34
30.	Chandigarh	73.73
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	33.11
32.	Daman and Diu	59.59
33.	Delhi	70.78
34.	Lakshadweep	77.49
35.	Pondicherry	70.38

**Partnership programme for universities with US**

1935. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and the US have agreed for a partnership programme for the universities;
  - (b) if so, the details thereof;
  - (c) whether any agreement has been signed during the visit of the US President;
- and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On November 24, 2009 India and USA jointly launched the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative with funding from both sides to increase university linkages and junior faculty development exchanges between US and Indian universities. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yale University, USA on October 28, 2010 at New Delhi. During the joint press conference with US President in New Delhi on November 8, 2010, it was announced that a US-India Higher Education Summit would be held in 2011.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Drop-out of girl students from schools**

†1936. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of school drop-out of girl students belonging to the age group of 6-14 years during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the major reasons for girls dropping out of school education;

(c) the present status of drop-out cases after implementation of free and compulsory education law;

(d) the details of school drop-out girls in rural and urban areas belonging to the age group of 6-14 years; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the country has recorded the lowest women literacy in Asia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Percentage of school drop-out of girls belonging to the age group of 6-14 years for a period of five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) Drop-out of girls is generally attributed to economic disadvantage, workload within and outside the house hold and early marriage. School distance is also a reason for girls to discontinue their education.

(c) and (d) The Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act has come into the force *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2010 and it is too early to judge the impact of the Act on drop-out rates for girls.

(e) No, Madam.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.