

(d) if so, the new initiatives Government proposes to take to bridge the gap of rural and urban literacy levels amongst females?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of the National Literacy Mission, was launched on 8th September, 2009 targeting to cover all districts that had adult female literacy rate of 50% or below, as per 2001 census and Left Wing Extremism Affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rate. So far, 372 districts have been sanctioned under the programme in a phased manner.

(b) Preparatory activities such as constitution of State, District, Block and Gram Panchayat Committees for implementing the programme; engagement of Preraks and Coordinators at different tiers; setting up of Adult Education Centres; identification of non literates and Volunteers through household survey; distribution of teaching-learning materials; environment building and mobilization etc. have been completed in many of the districts sanctioned during 2009-10 and are in advanced stage of completion in other districts sanctioned during 2010-11 & 2011-12.

(c) and (d) As per the census reports, the decadal gap in literacy level in rural and urban areas is narrowing down continuously since 1981. The literacy gap between rural and urban areas in 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 census reports is 31.20, 28.40, 20.90 and 16.07 percent points, respectively. To further minimize the gap between rural and urban literacy, Saakshar Bharat is being implemented only in rural areas of eligible districts.

Education of minority students

1353. DR T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that an assessment of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) performance has shown that the percentage of minority students at the upper primary schools has declined from 99.50 per cent in 2007-08 to 2008-09;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that recruitment of Urdu teachers has declined from 86.44 per cent in 2007-08 to 2008-09; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government for upliftment of socio-economic and educational status of Muslim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per DISE data, the enrolment of children belonging to Muslim Minority at Primary and upper primary level has increased as indicated below :

Year	% Muslim population as per Census 2001	% Muslim enrolment to total enrolment at primary and upper Primary level	
		Primary	Upper Primary
2007-08	13.43	10.49	8.54
2008-09	13.43	11.03	9.13
2009-10	13.43	13.48	11.89

[Source : DISE data]

District Information System for Education (DISE) does not capture enrolment data of children belonging to other minorities.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme of Appointment of Language Teachers, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for appointment of Hindi/Urdu/Modern Indian Language (MIL) teachers as per the proposals received from the States. State-wise information of amount sanctioned and Urdu teachers appointed during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is given below :

Year	Name of the State Government	No. of Urdu teachers appointed	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
2007-08	Andhra Pradesh	1400	175.00
	Himachal Pradesh	100	83.20
	Chhattisgarh	426	106.00
2008-09	Nil	Nil	Nil
2009-10	Punjab	42	10.38