

Acts of the State Legislatures concerned. At present, there are 164 Private Universities in the country. During the last five years, 117 Private Universities have been established by different State Governments. The State-wise list of Private Universities is available at the University Grants Commission (UGC) website www.ugc.ac.in.

(b) to (d) Private Universities are regulated by the UGC as per the provisions contained in the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003.

These Private Universities are inspected by the UGC with the help of Expert Committees constituted by the UGC which include representatives from the concerned Statutory Council(s). These Expert Committees visit the Private Universities to assess the fulfillment of minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc. as laid down by the UGC and other concerned Statutory Bodies. The reports of the Expert Committees are placed before the Commission for consideration and the Private Universities are asked to submit compliance reports in respect of the observations/suggestions of the Expert Committees. The compliance reports are examined by the UGC and again placed before the Commission for consideration.

Female literacy rate in Bihar

47. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the female literacy rate in Bihar is the lowest among the States in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes any special measures to improve literacy rate to bring it at par with the national average; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. A table showing State-wise female literacy rates as per census 2011 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Government has launched Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, to raise literacy levels, in the age group of 15 years and above. The programme primarily focuses on women. All the 38 Districts of Bihar are covered under the programme. The Government has also enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 to raise the literacy level in the age group of 6-14 years which is universally applicable including to the State of Bihar.

Statement*Details of State-wise Female literacy rates as per census 2011*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Female Literacy Rate
1	2	3
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	82.43%
2	Andhra Pradesh	59.15%
3	Arunachal Pradesh	57.70%
4	Assam	66.27%
5	Bihar	51.50%
6	Chandigarh	81.19%
7	Chhattisgarh	60.24%
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	64.32%
9	Daman and Diu	79.55%
10	Delhi	80.76%
11	Goa	84.66%
12	Gujarat	69.68%
13	Haryana	65.94%
14	Himachal Pradesh	75.93%
15	Jammu and Kashmir	56.43%
16	Jharkhand	55.42%
17	Karnataka	68.08%
18	Kerala	92.07%
19	Lakshadweep	87.95%
20	Madhya Pradesh	59.24%
21	Maharashtra	75.87%
22	Manipur	72.37%
23	Meghalaya	72.89%

1	2	3
24	Mizoram	89.27%
25	Nagaland	76.11%
26	Odisha	64.01%
27	Puducherry	80.67%
28	Punjab	70.73%
29	Rajasthan	52.12%
30	Sikkim	75.61%
31	Tamil Nadu	73.44%
32	Tripura	82.73%
33	Uttar Pradesh	57.18%
34	Uttarakhand	70.01%
35	West Bengal	70.54%

Establishment of private universities

†48. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish more private universities in various parts of the country, including Odisha;

(b) if so, the details of such new universities, as well as those universities which are already functioning, State-wise;

(c) the details of the rules and regulations, under which these universities have been granted permission to function in different fields;

(d) whether Central Government provides any incentives for opening such universities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) All the Private Universities functioning in the country have been established

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.