

(c) As per Census: 2011, the district in Assam with lowest literacy rate among ST female is Sonitpur and the District in Uttar Pradesh with lowest literacy rate among ST female is Baghpat.

(d) Though at present there are no ongoing projects in Assam and UP under the above scheme "Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts", the Ministry is funding various projects eg., Residential/Non-Residential Schools, Hostels and vocational training centres under various schemes for the welfare of STs in these States. However, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development throughout the country, including all districts of Assam and Uttar Pradesh in partnership with State/UTs for universalisation of elementary education. Besides, the Ministry of Human Resource Development is also implementing a scheme 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) emphasising not only access to quality secondary education for special focus groups (including ST girls) but also removing social and gender disparity in secondary education.

Low literacy rate of STs in Telangana

791. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes is just 49 per cent in Telangana which is much below the national average;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is little impact on having Ekalavya Model Residential Schools, Ashram Schools, etc.;

(c) whether the quality of students coming out is also not upto the mark; and

(d) what are the reasons behind this and the efforts being made by Government to prepare students so that their employability goes up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) The main reasons for the low literacy rate in the State of Telangana are:

(i) STs being economically backward, prefer to utilize their children in income generating work;

(ii) Parents are unwilling to send their children if the school is away from their hamlet;

(iii) The elders being illiterate, they are slow to comprehend the value of education.

(b) While the Union Government provides funds to the State Governments for construction and running of Ekalavya Model Residential Schools and construction of Ashram Schools, it is the State Government that actually run these schools. The Union Government has no role in the day to day running of these schools. Based on the information obtained from the State Government, these schools are having a significant impact in improving the literacy level of the ST population.

(c) No, Sir. The results of the students studying in these schools is as good as, if not better than, other educational institutions in the state. This can be observed from the steadily increasing literacy rate of STs in the State of Telangana.

(d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued advisories to the State Governments to:

- (i) Expand the role of Teachers to include mentoring of students and counselling of students and parents.
- (ii) Expand the scope of education to include sports, physical education, work education, vocational education, etc. to make it useful, relevant and interesting for the children and the communities.
- (iii) Utilise the long summer vacation for remedial coaching and vocation/skill development classes.

Availability of funds for youth and sports activities among girls

792. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient funds are made available for youth and sports activities among girls in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total funds spent by Government for promotion of sports among girls as compared with males during the last three years; and

(c) the list of sports in which women teams have represented India internationally?