

**Literacy rate**

1206. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that India's literacy rate is well below the world average and India currently has the largest illiterate population;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what action Government has taken to eliminate illiteracy from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the "Accountability in Education: Global Education Monitoring Report 2017/8" published by UNESCO, around 26.56 crore adult illiterates are reported in India out of the total 75 crore world adult illiterates. The country's low literacy rate is due to huge accumulated backlog of non-literates besides poverty, gender and social category inequalities, etc.

(c) In order to improve literacy rate, Saakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development is being implemented in rural areas of 410 districts in 26 States and one UT that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001, including left wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rates, with special focus on women and other disadvantaged groups. In addition, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is also being implemented in conjunction with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 for universalisation of elementary education for all children in the 6-14 age group.

**Aadhaar Card for Mid Day Meals**

1207. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made Aadhaar number mandatory to avail mid day meals in schools and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has data of children availing mid day meals who have Aadhaar Cards and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the data of children availing mid day meals who do not have Aadhaar Card yet; and

(d) the manner in which Government is planning to ensure that mid day meals are served in schools to children without forcing them for Aadhaar enrolment and excluding them for not having Aadhaar number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Mid-Day Meal scheme (MDMS) is covered under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. A notification has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) dated 28th February, 2017 which came into effect in all States and Union Territories except in the States of Assam, Meghalaya and the State of Jammu and Kashmir. As per the notification, the beneficiaries are required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication and if not enrolled for Aadhaar, shall have to apply for Aadhaar enrolment by 31st December, 2017 provided that till the time Aadhaar is assigned to the individual, he/she shall be entitled for benefit subject to the production of the following identification documents, namely:

- i. If he or she has enrolled, his or her Aadhaar Enrolment Id slip; or
- ii. A copy of his or her application made for Aadhaar Enrolment and an undertaking by the parent or legal guardian that the child is not availing benefit from any other school and any one of the documents mentioned in the notification.

The use of Aadhaar as identity document in MDMS simplifies the Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency, and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly to them in a convenient and seamless manner and Aadhaar obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity.

(b) to (d) The State and UT-wise details of children with Aadhaar Card and without Aadhaar Card, availing mid day meals are given in the Statement (*See* below). The States and UTs are providing Aadhaar Cards to the children without Aadhaar Cards. As per information received from States and UTs, no child has been denied mid-day-meals due to lack of Aadhaar card in any States and UTs.

**Statement**

*State and UT-wise details of children with Aadhaar Card and without Aadhaar Card, availing mid day meals*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Elementary Level (Classes 1st -8th) 6 to 14 Years		
		Enrolled children	Students with Aadhaar	Students Without Aadhaar
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2967886	2967886	0
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	42054	42020	34
3.	Chandigarh	98129	98029	100
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	33410	33136	274
5.	Haryana	1846912	1823538	23374
6.	Gujarat	5937058	5845876	91182
7.	Daman and Diu	18377	18038	339
8.	Chhattisgarh	3169598	3089764	79834
9.	Puducherry	56899	54623	2276
10.	Punjab	2166562	2069324	97238
11.	Telangana	1926498	1825447	101051
12.	Tripura	465525	440726	24799
13.	Kerala	2676969	2474011	202958
14.	Goa	161217	148321	12896
15.	Jharkhand	4658404	4268817	389587
16.	Karnataka	4706047	4261528	444519
17.	Lakshadweep	6884	6225	659
18.	Delhi	1625685	1417308	208377
19.	Uttarakhand	751180	643454	107726
20.	Odisha	5097681	4238225	859456

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Maharashtra	10161197	8255470	1905727
22.	Himachal Pradesh	1425780	1135274	290506
23.	Tamil Nadu	5381319	4197892	1183427
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	196267	146232	50035
25.	Bihar	19243529	14240211	5003318
26.	Rajasthan	6232415	4425015	1807400
27.	Sikkim	65280	46100	19180
28.	West Bengal	11922163	8396780	3525383
29.	Madhya Pradesh	8291637	5506300	2785337
30.	Uttar Pradesh	17851084	9335390	8515694
31.	Mizoram	144950	62651	82299
32.	Nagaland	159449	24203	135246
33.	Manipur	191062	13909	177153
TOTAL		119679107	91551723	28127384

#### Implementation of AEP

1208. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) number of Government and private schools implementing the Adolescent Education Programme (AEP), State-wise;

(b) whether programme includes modules on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has affirmed the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents at United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and if so, whether it is obliged to provide free and compulsory comprehensive sexuality education to adolescents;

(d) whether twelve State Governments have banned AEP and if so, the details thereof; and