

Educational gap between rural and urban areas

2783. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are bridging the gap between rural-urban divide in the field of education;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilized for the purpose, rural and urban area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels for children living in rural and urban areas.

The NPE recognizes that the rural areas, with poor infrastructure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification and dispersal of employment opportunities. Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes/programmes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas including technical education.

The schemes/programmes include Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal scheme (MDM), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, Mahila Samakhya and the scheme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools. 546 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in rural areas specifically in order to provide quality education to rural children. There are other institutions such as Gandhigram Rural Institute and the National Council of Rural Institutes which address issues of reducing disparities in education.

Year-wise details are not maintained of differences in educational attainment between rural and urban areas. However, literacy percentage may be used as a yardstick. The rural-urban literacy gap has decreased by 7.21 percentage points in the last decade, as can be seen from the following table:—

Rural-Urban Literacy Rates 1991-2001

Year	Male	Female	Persons
1	2	3	4
1991 (7 years and above)			
Rural	57.87	30.62	44.69
Urban	81.09	64.05	73.08
TOTAL:	64.13	39.29	52.21

1	2	3	4
2001 (7 years and above)			
Rural	70.70	46.13	58.74
Urban	86.27	72.86	79.92
TOTAL:	75.26	53.67	64.84

Source: Census of India

(c) Funds under various Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry are not allocated on rural-urban basis.

Software in curriculum framework and research

2784. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce free software in both curriculum framework and research at UGC level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Computer operator training programme

†2785. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been allocated to the State Governments, especially to Delhi Government for short term computer operator training under the Continuing Education Programme (Satat Shiksha Yojana) under the World Bank Project during the last three years; and

(b) the number of candidates from rural areas who have been given such training under the said project, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

New university in Darjeeling

†2786. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to open a new university in Darjeeling;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be opened; and