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PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS
Chapter 7
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Chapter 7

State of Literacy



State of Literacy

Article 45 of the Directive Principles of the Constitution urges the State to provide free and compulsory education for all the children until they complete fourteen years of age. In this direction the National Policy on Education, 1968 was a further milestone which stressed the need for strenuous efforts for early fulfilment of the goal laid down in the Constitution. The Constitutional amendment of 1976 included education in the concurrent list (the official list of subjects for which the Centre and the States assume joint responsibility). This was an important step which called for a new sharing of responsibility between the union government and the states in this vital area of national importance. The National Policy on Education, 1986 emphasised that new thrust in elementary education will focus on (i) universal access and enrolment (ii) universal retention of children upto fourteen years of age, and (iii) a substantial improvement in the quality of education to enable all children to achieve essential levels of learning. The literacy rates obtained at the census give a reflection of success of the government policies and programmes.

Literacy and education are reasonably good indicators of development in a society. Spread and diffusion of literacy is generally associated with essential traits of today's civilisation such as modernisation, urbanisation, industrialisation, communication and commerce. It forms an important input in the overall development of individuals enabling them to comprehend their social, political and cultural environment better and respond to it appropriately. Higher levels of education and literacy lead to a greater awareness and also contributes in improvement of economic conditions. It acts as a catalyst for social upliftment enhancing the returns on investments made in almost every aspect of development effort, be it population control, health, hygiene, environmental degradation control, empowerment of women and weaker sections of the society. Improved levels of literacy also are pre-requisites for acquiring various skills.

Literacy is one of the important social characteristics on which information is obtained of every individual in the census. For the purposes of census a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate. In the censuses prior to 1991, children below five years of age were necessarily treated as illiterates.

The ability to read and write with understanding is not ordinarily achieved until one had some schooling or at least some time to develop these skills. It was, therefore, decided at the 1991 census that all children in the age group 0-6, will be treated as illiterate by definition and the population aged seven years and above only is to be classified as literate or illiterate. The same criterion has been retained at the Census of India, 2001, also. It is not mandatory that to be treated as literate, a person should have received any formal education or acquired any minimum educational standard. Literacy status can be acquired through adult literacy classes or by attending any non-formal educational system. Persons who are unfortunately blind and read in Braille are also treated as literates.

In Censuses upto 1981, it was customary to work out the literacy rate taking into account the total population. Since literacy rate is more meaningful if the sub-population in the age group 0-6 is excluded from the total population, it was decided in 1991 to use the term literacy rate for the

population relating to seven years and above. The same concept has been continued in this paper. The literacy rate taking into account the total population in the denominator has now been termed as 'crude literacy rate'.

Table 2 presents the total population, child population in the age group 0-6, literates and literacy rates for the country and the states and union territories as reported at the Census of India, 2001.

Statement 25

Number of literates and illiterates among population aged 7 years and above and their change-India : 1991 and 2001

Literates/ Illiterates	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Literates			
1991	358,402,626	228,983,134	129,419,492
2001	562,010,743	336,969,695	225,041,048
Increase in 2001 over 1991	203,608,117	107,986,561	95,621,556
Illiterates			
1991	328,167,288	128,099,211	200,068,077
2001	296,208,952	106,654,066	189,554,886
Increase in 2001 over 1991	-31,958,336	-21,445,145	-10,513,191

Note:

1. To make the data comparable shown against literates and illiterates for the years 1991 and 2001, the corresponding figures for Jammu & Kashmir have not been included in both the years as the data for 1991 Census for Jammu & Kashmir is not available because the 1991 census could not be conducted in this state due to disturbed conditions.
2. To make the data comparable the figures of literates and illiterates shown against 1991 and 2001 do not include the figures for entire district of Kachchh, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat state and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities.

Statement 25 gives the number of literates and illiterates among the population aged seven years and above in absolute figures for India for the 1991 and 2001 Censuses. It is important to take note of the changes in absolute numbers to observe their impact on the literacy trends in the country. Of the 836,650,839 population recorded for the country at the Census of India, 1991 (see notes 1 and 2 of Statement 25) as many as 686,569,914 persons were aged seven years and above. Out of these 358,402,626 were literate and 328,167,288 illiterates. At the Census of India, 2001, out of the provisional total population of 1,014,651,658 (see notes 1 and 2 of Statement 25) the number of persons aged seven years and above is 858,219,695. Out of these 562,010,743 are literates and 296,208,952 illiterates. There has been increase of 171,649,781 persons in the age group seven years and above during 1991-2001, while 203,608,117 additional persons have become literate during the decade. The significant milestone reached in Census of India, 2001, is that the total number of illiterates has come down from 328,167,288 in 1991 to 296,208,952. Thus for the first time since independence, there is a decline in the absolute number of illiterates during a decade. This is a major shift in improving the literacy status in India and the achievements of the

decade 1991-2001 may permit us to label it as the 'Literacy Decade', if this trend can be made permanently irreversible from now onwards.

Out of the 203,608,117 added to the literate population during 1991-2001, 107,986,561 were males and 95,621,556 were females. On the other hand during this period the contribution to the total decrease of 31,958,336 among illiterates, is dominated by males (21,445,145) as compared to the females (10,513,191).

Statement 26

Population aged 7 and above, literates in 1991 and their decadal difference and percentage decadal difference during 1991-2001

State/UT Code	India/States/Union territories*	Population aged 7 and above 1991	Decadal difference in Population aged 7 and above 1991-2001	Percentage decadal difference 1991-2001	Number of literates 1991	Decadal difference in number of literates 1991-2001	Percentage decadal difference 1991-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

	INDIA^{1,2}	686,569,914	171,649,781	25.00	358,402,626	203,608,117	56.81
1	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
2	Himachal Pradesh ³	4,270,662	953,212	22.32	2,730,512	1,298,585	47.56
3	Punjab	16,975,724	4,258,080	25.08	9,932,116	4,921,694	49.55
4	Chandigarh *	546,245	245,376	44.92	425,060	222,148	52.26
5	Uttaranchal	5,809,288	1,350,881	23.25	3,354,695	1,820,481	54.27
6	Haryana	13,338,475	4,485,434	33.63	7,449,012	4,776,024	64.12
7	Delhi *	7,813,248	4,045,733	51.78	5,882,297	3,820,752	64.95
8	Rajasthan	35,146,498	10,875,521	30.94	13,549,088	14,537,013	107.29
9	Uttar Pradesh	105,103,376	30,477,441	29.00	42,789,501	34,980,774	81.75
10	Bihar	51,172,348	15,471,909	30.23	19,185,832	12,489,775	65.10
11	Sikkim	331,810	131,513	39.64	188,940	133,888	70.86
12	Arunachal Pradesh	681,933	209,129	30.67	283,610	204,186	72.00
13	Nagaland	1,002,059	706,405	70.50	617,736	528,787	85.60
14	Manipur	1,530,532	545,411	35.64	916,692	512,964	55.96
15	Mizoram	561,483	188,038	33.49	461,930	201,332	43.58
16	Tripura	2,260,083	504,073	22.30	1,365,980	670,179	49.06
17	Meghalaya	1,381,049	467,578	33.86	678,105	492,338	72.60

18	Assam	17,992,811	4,295,348	23.87	9,516,393	4,811,147	50.56
19	West Bengal	56,515,668	12,572,679	22.25	32,609,397	15,212,360	46.65
20	Jharkhand	17,437,931	4,675,309	26.81	7,217,066	4,753,111	65.86
21	Orissa	26,312,235	5,214,134	19.82	12,915,917	7,137,868	55.26
22	Chhatisgarh	14,207,956	3,118,226	21.95	6,096,034	5,196,862	85.25
23	Madhya Pradesh	38,881,644	10,885,151	28.00	17,369,267	14,536,842	83.69
24	Gujarat ⁴	32,946,120	8,573,192	26.02	20,284,486	8,765,533	43.21
25	Daman & Diu *	85,808	52,239	60.88	61,096	50,843	83.22
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	110,140	71,138	64.59	44,834	63,996	142.74
27	Maharashtra	65,432,651	18,132,509	27.71	42,447,139	22,119,642	52.11
28	Andhra Pradesh	55,543,620	10,510,647	18.92	24,487,559	15,877,206	64.84
29	Karnataka	37,499,590	8,408,200	22.42	21,013,193	9,761,795	46.46
30	Goa	1,032,477	169,369	16.40	779,596	209,766	26.91
31	Lakshadweep *	42,243	9,492	22.47	34,548	10,733	31.07
32	Kerala	25,261,618	2,923,423	11.57	22,686,461	2,939,237	12.96
33	Tamil Nadu	48,410,887	6,882,283	14.22	30,336,235	10,288,163	33.91
34	Pondicherry *	697,390	163,429	23.43	521,213	180,234	34.58
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	234,312	77,279	32.98	171,086	81,859	47.85

Note:

1. For the sake of comparability the figures presented against India have been derived after excluding Jammu & Kashmir as the details for 1991 Census are not available since the Census of India 1991 could not be conducted in this State.
2. The figures shown against India exclude entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat state and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities.
3. For the sake of comparability the figures shown against Himachal Pradesh exclude figures of entire Kinnaur district where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.
4. For the sake of comparability the figures shown against Gujarat do not include entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat state where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.
5. N.A. stands for 'Not Available'

Statement 26 gives population aged seven and above and the absolute number of literates in 1991, and their absolute decadal and percentage difference between 1991-2001. The percentage decadal increase in population aged seven years and above during 1991-2001 is 25.00 while the corresponding increase in the number of literates in this age group is 56.81 per cent. The projected population of those who attained age of seven years and above after the conduct of the 1991 Census i.e., those who should have been enrolled in the schools works out to 239.81 million as per

the projections (including Jammu and Kashmir) made by the Office of the Registrar General, India (1996). While the increase in number of literates between 1991 and 2001 (excluding Jammu and Kashmir) is of 203.61 million. These figures possibly suggest that a majority of children who attained age of seven years and above after 1991 attended school at one point of time or the other. However, this preliminary trend can only be confirmed when age wise data relating to literacy and children attending school is available.

The number of literates have more than doubled in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Rajasthan during the decade 1991-2001. The states and union territories, which have shown decadal percentage increase of more than eighty per cent, are Nagaland (85.60), Chhatisgarh (85.25), Madhya Pradesh (83.69), Daman and Diu (83.22) and Uttar Pradesh (81.75).

Statement 27

Number of illiterates, decadal decrease in illiterates and percentage contribution in decrease : 1991, 2001

State/ UT Code	India, States/Union territories *	Number of illiterates		Decadal decrease in number of illiterates	Percentage contribution in decrease
		1991	2001		
1	2	3	4	5	6

INDIA^{1,2}	328,167,288	296,208,952	31,958,336	100.00
2 Himachal Pradesh ³	1,540,150	1,194,777	345,373	1.08
3 Punjab	7,043,608	6,379,994	663,614	2.08
4 Chandigarh *	121,185	144,413	-23,228	-0.07
5 Uttaranchal	2,454,593	1,984,993	469,600	1.47
6 Haryana	5,889,463	5,598,873	290,590	0.91
7 Delhi *	1,930,951	2,155,932	-224,981	-0.70
8 Rajasthan	21,597,410	17,935,918	3,661,492	11.46
9 Uttar Pradesh	62,313,875	57,810,542	4,503,333	14.09
10 Bihar	31,986,516	34,968,650	-2,982,134	-9.33
11 Sikkim	142,870	140,495	2,375	0.01
12 Arunachal Pradesh	398,323	403,266	-4,943	-0.02
13 Nagaland	384,323	561,941	-177,618	-0.56
14 Manipur	613,840	646,287	-32,447	-0.10
15 Mizoram	99,553	86,259	13,294	0.04
16 Tripura	894,103	727,997	166,106	0.52
17 Meghalaya	702,944	678,184	24,760	0.08
18 Assam	8,476,418	7,960,619	515,799	1.61
19 West Bengal	23,906,271	21,266,590	2,639,681	8.26
20 Jharkhand	10,220,865	10,143,063	77,802	0.24
21 Orissa	13,396,318	11,472,584	1,923,734	6.02

22	Chhatisgarh	8,111,922	6,033,286	2,078,636	6.50
23	Madhya Pradesh	21,512,377	17,860,686	3,651,691	11.43
24	Gujarat ⁴	12,661,634	12,469,293	192,341	0.60
25	Daman & Diu *	24,712	26,108	-1,396	0.00
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	65,306	72,448	-7,142	-0.02
27	Maharashtra	22,985,512	18,998,379	3,987,133	12.48
28	Andhra Pradesh	31,056,061	25,689,502	5,366,559	16.79
29	Karnataka	16,486,397	15,132,802	1,353,595	4.24
30	Goa	252,881	212,484	40,397	0.13
31	Lakshadweep *	7,695	6,454	1,241	0.00
32	Kerala	2,575,157	2,559,343	15,814	0.05
33	Tamil Nadu	18,074,652	14,668,772	3,405,880	10.66
34	Pondicherry *	176,177	159,372	16,805	0.05
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	63,226	58,646	4,580	0.01

Notes:

1. For making the data comparable the number of illiterates given in column 4 against India exclude the figures for Jammu and Kashmir for 1991 Census as this data is not available for Jammu and Kashmir for 1991 Census since it could not be held in this State due to disturbed conditions.
2. To make data comparable the number of illiterates shown in column 3 against India for the 1991 Census exclude the number of illiterates of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat state and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.
3. To make the data comparable, the number of illiterates shown against Himachal Pradesh in column 3 for 1991 Census excludes the figures of illiterates of entire Kinnaur district where Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.
4. To make the data comparable, the number of illiterates shown against Gujarat in column 3 for 1991 Census excludes the figures of illiterates of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat state where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.

Statement 27 gives the number of illiterates, decadal decrease in illiterates and percentage contribution in its decrease during 1991-2001 at the state level. The absolute number of illiterates in the country as a whole declined in this decade by 31,958,336. The maximum contribution in this decline came from Andhra Pradesh, where the number of illiterates decreased by 5,366,559 accounting for 16.79 per cent of the total decrease in illiterates during 1991-2001. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu followed suit, accounting for 14.09 per cent, 12.48 per cent, 11.46 per cent, 11.43 per cent and 10.66 per cent decrease in the number of illiterates respectively. These six aforementioned states account for three fourth of the percentage decrease in the total number of illiterates in the country, where as they share half of country's population.

Bihar on the other hand, increased its number of illiterates from 31,986,516 to 34,968,650 (a difference of 2,982,134) negatively contributing by 9.33 percent to the kitty of illiterates. It is followed by Delhi where the number of illiterates increased by 224,981. The other states/ union territories where the absolute number of illiterates increased were Nagaland by 117,618, Manipur by 32,447, Chandigarh by 23,228 etc. Thus in all in eight states and union territories the number of illiterates continued to grow during the decade.

Statement 28

Number of male illiterates, decadal decrease in male illiterates and percentage contribution in decrease : 1991 and 2001

State/UT Code	India, State/Union territories *	Number of male illiterates		Decadal decrease in number of male illiterates	Percentage contribution in decrease
		1991	2001		
1	2	3	4	5	6

	INDIA^{1,2}	128,099,211	106,654,066	21,445,145	100.00
2	Himachal Pradesh ³	529,694	368,182	161,512	0.75
3	Punjab	3,095,357	2,743,910	351,447	1.64
4	Chandigarh *	55,336	64,423	-9,087	-0.04
5	Uttaranchal	817,685	579,642	238,043	1.11
6	Haryana	2,214,011	1,978,457	235,554	1.10
7	Delhi *	776,591	826,149	-49,558	-0.23
8	Rajasthan	8,290,337	5,627,181	2,663,156	12.42
9	Uttar Pradesh	25,480,524	21,306,282	4,174,242	19.46
10	Bihar	13,128,759	13,799,477	-670,718	-3.13
11	Sikkim	61,207	58,035	3,172	0.01
12	Arunachal Pradesh	181,007	169,570	11,437	0.05
13	Nagaland	173,951	254,027	-80,076	-0.37
14	Manipur	222,167	231,946	-9,779	-0.05
15	Mizoram	42,286	36,115	6,171	0.03
16	Tripura	342,804	263,070	79,734	0.37
17	Meghalaya	332,556	316,995	15,561	0.07
18	Assam	3,591,741	3,248,618	343,123	1.60
19	West Bengal	9,539,513	8,031,792	1,507,721	7.03
20	Jharkhand	4,038,827	3,661,286	377,541	1.76
21	Orissa	4,925,536	3,838,038	1,087,498	5.07
22	Chhatisgarh	3,000,310	1,925,087	1,075,223	5.01
23	Madhya Pradesh	8,459,594	6,020,438	2,439,156	11.37
24	Gujarat ⁴	4,532,658	4,202,730	329,928	1.54
25	Daman & Diu *	7,548	9,525	-1,977	-0.01
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	26,412	27,184	-772	0.00
27	Maharashtra	7,943,119	5,968,562	1,974,557	9.21

28	Andhra Pradesh	12,639,933	9,724,534	2,915,399	13.59
29	Karnataka	6,264,457	5,537,162	727,295	3.39
30	Goa	85,846	68,064	17,782	0.08
31	Lakshadweep *	2,136	1,824	312	0.00
32	Kerala	786,620	789,032	-2,412	-0.01
33	Tamil Nadu	6,425,791	4,905,357	1,520,434	7.09
34	Pondicherry *	57,403	47,656	9,747	0.05
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	27,495	23,716	3,779	0.02

Note:

1. See notes 1 to 4 below Statement 27.

Statement 28 presents the state level figures of male illiterates in the 1991 and 2001 Censuses, the decadal decrease in male illiterates and the percentage contribution in decrease.

In case of male illiterates, their absolute number in the country has gone down by 21,445,145 from 128,099,211 in 1991 to 106,654,066 in 2001. Uttar Pradesh contributed the maximum in the decadal decrease of male illiterates which declined by 4,174,242 (19.46 per cent of the total decrease). The percentage contribution of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in the total decrease of illiterate males during the decade is 13.59 per cent, 12.42 per cent and 11.37 per cent respectively. It is significant to note that although the number of male illiterates have increased in eight states and union territories namely Chandigarh, Delhi, Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Kerala, their aggregate number is not significant. The maximum increase in the number of male illiterates has taken place in Bihar from 13,128,759 to 13,799,477 showing an increase of 670,718. It is followed by Nagaland, showing increase from 173,951 to 254,027 (a difference of 80,076), Delhi from 776,591 to 826,149 (a difference of 49,558) etc. Surprisingly Kerala, which ranks first in male literacy, has also added to the number of male illiterates from 786,620 in 1991 to 789,032 in 2001, a marginal increase of 2,412.

Statement 29

Number of female illiterates, decadal decrease in female illiterates and percentage contribution in decrease : 1991 and 2001

State /UT Code	India, States/ Union territories *	Number of female illiterates		Decadal decrease in number of female illiterates	Percentage contribution in decrease
		1991	2001		
1	2	3	4	5	6

INDIA^{1,2}	200,068,077	189,554,886	10,513,191	100.00
2 Himachal Pradesh ³	1,010,456	826,595	183,861	1.75
3 Punjab	3,948,251	3,636,084	312,167	2.97
4 Chandigarh *	65,849	79,990	-14,141	-0.13
5 Uttaranchal	1,636,908	1,405,351	231,557	2.20
6 Haryana	3,675,452	3,620,416	55,036	0.52

7 Delhi *	1,154,360	1,329,783	-175,423	-1.67
8 Rajasthan	13,307,073	12,308,737	998,336	9.50
9 Uttar Pradesh	36,833,351	36,504,260	329,091	3.13
10 Bihar	18,857,757	21,169,173	-2,311,416	-21.99
11 Sikkim	81,663	82,460	-797	-0.01
12 Arunachal Pradesh	217,316	233,696	-16,380	-0.16
13 Nagaland	210,372	307,914	-97,542	-0.93
14 Manipur	391,673	414,341	-22,668	-0.22
15 Mizoram	57,267	50,144	7,123	0.07
16 Tripura	551,299	464,927	86,372	0.82
17 Meghalaya	370,388	361,189	9,199	0.09
18 Assam	4,884,677	4,712,001	172,676	1.64
19 West Bengal	14,366,758	13,234,798	1,131,960	10.77
20 Jharkhand	6,182,038	6,481,777	-299,739	-2.85
21 Orissa	8,470,782	7,634,546	836,236	7.95
22 Chhatisgarh	5,111,612	4,108,199	1,003,413	9.54
23 Madhya Pradesh	13,052,783	11,840,248	1,212,535	11.53
24 Gujarat ⁴	8,128,976	8,266,563	-137,587	-1.31
25 Daman & Diu *	17,164	16,583	581	0.01
26 Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	38,894	45,264	-6,370	-0.06
27 Maharashtra	15,042,393	13,029,817	2,012,576	19.14
28 Andhra Pradesh	18,416,128	15,964,968	2,451,160	23.32
29 Karnataka	10,221,940	9,595,640	626,300	5.96
30 Goa	167,035	144,420	22,615	0.22
31 Lakshadweep *	5,559	4,630	929	0.01
32 Kerala	1,788,537	1,770,311	18,226	0.17
33 Tamil Nadu	11,648,861	9,763,415	1,885,446	17.93
34 Pondicherry *	118,774	111,716	7,058	0.07
35 Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	35,731	34,930	801	0.01

Notes:

1. See notes 1 to 4 below Statement 27.

Statement 29 presents the state level figures of female illiterates in the 1991 and 2001 Censuses, the decadal decrease in female illiterates and the percentage contribution in decrease. The number of female illiterates decreased from 200,068,077 in 1991 to 189,554,886 in 2001, thereby showing a decrease of 10,513,191. The maximum number of female illiterates decreased in Andhra Pradesh from 18,416,128 to 15,964,968 showing a decrease of 2,451,160. It is followed by Maharashtra showing a decrease from 15,042,393 in 1991 to 13,029,817 in 2001 (a difference of 2,012,576), Tamil Nadu from 11,648,861 to 9,763,415 (a difference of 1,885,446), Madhya Pradesh from 13,052,783 to 11,840,248 (a difference of 1,212,535) and West Bengal from 14,366,758 to

13,234,798 (a difference of 1,131,960). The contributions from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal taken together explains 82.69 per cent of the total decline in female illiterates in the country.

It is pertinent to note that as in the case of male illiterates, the maximum number of female illiterates have increased in Bihar from 18,857,757 in 1991 to 21,169,173, thereby showing an increase of 2,311,416 (negative contribution of 21.99 percentage points). Bihar is followed by Jharkhand showing an increase from 6,182,038 to 6,481,777 (a difference of 299,739), Delhi, showing an increase from 1,154,360 to 1,329,783 (a difference of 175,423), Gujarat from 8,128,976 to 8,266,563 (difference of 137,587), Nagaland from 210,372 to 307,914 (a difference of 97,542) etc. Thus total ten states and union territories added to their pool of female illiterates.

Statement 30
Crude literacy rate in India by sex : 1901 – 2001

Census year	Crude literacy rate			Change in percent points		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1901	5.35	9.83	0.60	-	-	-
1911	5.92	10.56	1.05	0.57	0.73	0.45
1921	7.16	12.21	1.81	1.24	1.65	0.76
1931	9.50	15.59	2.93	2.34	3.38	1.12
1941	16.10	24.90	7.30	6.60	9.31	4.37
1951	16.67	24.95	7.93	0.57	0.05	0.63
1961	24.02	34.44	12.95	7.35	9.49	5.02
1971	29.45	39.45	18.69	5.43	5.01	5.74
1981	36.23	46.89	24.82	6.78	7.44	6.13
1991	42.84	52.74	32.17	6.61	5.85	7.35
2001	55.30	64.13	45.84	12.46	11.39	13.67

Note:

1. Figures of 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931 are for undivided India.
2. Figures for 1981 excludes Assam as 1981 Census could not be conducted in this state due to disturbed conditions.
3. Figures for the 1951 and 1991 Censuses do not include Jammu & Kashmir.
4. Figures for 2001 do not include figures of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities.

Statement 30 shows the crude literacy rate in India by sex during 1901-2001. The literacy rates designated as crude literacy rates in this table, have been computed with total population as base without removing the mandatory illiterate population aged 0-4 or 0-6 from the denominator. The

crude literacy rates starting from 1901 onwards show a consistent increase both for males and females.

The crude literacy rate in 1901, started with a low level of 5.35 per cent and steadily increased by 1931 to reach a figure of 9.50 per cent. It further improved sharply to 16.10 per cent during 1931-41, recording an increase of 6.60 percentage points. The improvement in literacy during 1941-51 was barely visible with a gain of only 0.57 percentage point. In post-independence period, there has been a more rapid growth in crude literacy rates. It has grown more than three times from 16.67 per cent in 1951 to 55.30 per cent at the Census of India, 2001. The crude literacy rate crossed the significant milestone of fifty per cent in the current census.

The jump of 12.46 percentage points between 1991 and 2001 compares extraordinarily with the decadal literacy growth of previous decades since 1901. It is for the first time since 1901 that an increase in two digit percentage points during 1991-2001, has occurred in case of all the three categories of persons, males and females. The male crude literacy has moved forward by 11.39 percentage points from 52.74 per cent to 64.13 per cent and among females it has gone up by 13.67 percentage points from 32.17 per cent in 1991 to 45.84 in 2001.

In pre-independence period, the male crude literacy rate increased from 9.83 per cent in 1901 to 24.90 percent in 1941, whereas the corresponding increase in female crude literacy rate was from 0.60 per cent to 7.30 per cent. In post independence era the crude literacy rates of males has gone up by almost forty per cent. The corresponding increase among females is thirty eight per cent.

Statement 31

Literacy rate in India : 1951-2001

Census year	Persons	Males	Females	Male – female gap in literacy rate
1	2	3	4	5
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.30	40.40	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.98
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	65.38	75.85	54.16	21.70

Note:

1. Literacy rates for 1951, 1961 and 1971 Censuses relate to population aged five years and above. The rates for the 1981, 1991 and 2001 Census relate to the population aged seven years and above.
2. The 1981 Literacy rates exclude Assam where the 1981 Census could not be conducted. The 1991 Census Literacy rates exclude Jammu & Kashmir where the 1991 Census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions.
3. The 2001 Census, literacy rates exclude entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities.

Literacy rates are, however, more meaningful if the segment of population compulsorily treated as illiterate by definition is excluded from the total population. Statement 31 and Figure 15 present the literacy rates for the country since 1951. While literacy rates in this table for the 1951, 61 and 71 censuses relate to the population aged five years and above, those for the 1981, 91 and 2001 relate to the population seven years and above. The literacy rate for the country as a whole in 2001, works out to 65.38 percent for the population aged seven years and over. The corresponding figures for males and females are 75.85 and 54.16 per cent respectively. Thus three fourth of the male and more than half of the female population aged seven years and above are literate in the country today. India has continued its inexorable march in improving its literacy rate by recording a jump of 13.17 percentage points from 52.21 in 1991 to 65.38 in 2001. The increase in literacy rates in males and females are in the order of 11.72 and 14.87 percentage points respectively. Thus the increase in literacy rates observed during 1991-2001 in respect of persons, males as well as females have been the highest recorded in comparison to earlier decades since 1951 except in case of males during 1951-61. This improvement in literacy rate augurs well for the country and needs not only to be sustained but requires a fillip particularly in the case of the fairer sex.

The gap in male-female literacy rates of 18.30 percentage points in 1951, increased to 26.62 in 1981, but since then there are unmistakable signs of improvement. Thus, in 1991 this gap was marginally reduced to 24.84 and in 2001 it has further gone down to 21.70 percentage points. These declines are bound to be slow initially as a result of the continuing past legacy of a large number of adult illiterate women.

Statement 32

Ranking of States and Union territories by literacy rate and sex : 2001

Rank	Persons		Males		Females	
	India/ States/Union territories *	Literacy rate	India/States/Union territories *	Literacy rate	India/States/Union territories *	Literacy rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

1	Kerala	90.92	Kerala	94.20	Kerala	87.86
2	Mizoram	88.49	Lakshadweep *	93.15	Mizoram	86.13
3	Lakshadweep *	87.52	Mizoram	90.69	Lakshadweep *	81.56
4	Goa	82.32	Pondicherry *	88.89	Chandigarh *	76.65
5	Delhi *	81.82	Goa	88.88	Goa	75.51
6	Chandigarh *	81.76	Daman & Diu *	88.40	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	75.29
7	Pondicherry *	81.49	Delhi *	87.37	Delhi *	75.00
8	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	81.18	Maharashtra	86.27	Pondicherry *	74.13
9	Daman & Diu *	81.09	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	86.07	Daman & Diu *	70.37
10	Maharashtra	77.27	Himachal Pradesh	86.02	Himachal Pradesh	68.08
11	Himachal Pradesh ²	77.13	Chandigarh *	85.65	Maharashtra	67.51
12	Tripura	73.66	Uttaranchal	84.01	Tripura	65.41

13	Tamil Nadu	73.47	Tamil Nadu	82.33	Tamil Nadu	64.55
14	Uttaranchal	72.28	Tripura	81.47	Punjab	63.55
15	Gujarat ³	69.97	Gujarat	80.50	Nagaland	61.92
16	Punjab	69.95	Haryana	79.25	Sikkim	61.46
17	Sikkim	69.68	Manipur	77.87	Meghalaya	60.41
18	West Bengal	69.22	Chhatisgarh	77.86	Uttaranchal	60.26
19	Manipur	68.87	West Bengal	77.58	West Bengal	60.22
20	Haryana	68.59	Madhya Pradesh	76.80	Manipur	59.70
21	Nagaland	67.11	Sikkim	76.73	Gujarat	58.60
22	Karnataka	67.04	Rajasthan	76.46	Karnataka	57.45
	INDIA¹	65.38	Karnataka	76.29	Haryana	56.31
23	Chhatisgarh	65.18	Orissa	75.95	Assam	56.03
24	Assam	64.28	INDIA	75.85	INDIA	54.16
25	Madhya Pradesh	64.11	Punjab	75.63	Chhatisgarh	52.40
26	Orissa	63.61	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	73.32	Andhra Pradesh	51.17
27	Meghalaya	63.31	Assam	71.93	Orissa	50.97
28	Andhra Pradesh	61.11	Nagaland	71.77	Madhya Pradesh	50.28
29	Rajasthan	61.03	Andhra Pradesh	70.85	Rajasthan	44.34
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	60.03	Uttar Pradesh	70.23	Arunachal Pradesh	44.24
31	Uttar Pradesh	57.36	Jharkhand	67.94	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	42.99
32	Arunachal Pradesh	54.74	Meghalaya	66.14	Uttar Pradesh	42.98
33	Jammu & Kashmir	54.46	Jammu & Kashmir	65.75	Jammu & Kashmir	41.82
34	Jharkhand	54.13	Arunachal Pradesh	64.07	Jharkhand	39.38
35	Bihar	47.53	Bihar	60.32	Bihar	33.57

Note:

1. The Literacy rates for India have been worked out by excluding entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities.
2. The Literacy rates for Himachal Pradesh have been worked out by excluding entire Kinnaur district as population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted there due to natural calamity.
3. The rates for Gujarat have been worked out by excluding entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.

Statement 32 presents States and Union territories arranged in descending order according to the 2001 literacy rates. Literacy rates for persons and males and females at Census of India, 2001, by states and union territories have been presented in figures sixteen and seventeen respectively. Kerala, where literacy rate is 90.92 per cent, holds the first rank in the country, closely followed by Mizoram (88.49 per cent) and Lakshadweep (87.52 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 47.53 per cent, ranks last in the country preceded by Jharkhand (54.13 per cent) and Jammu and

Kashmir (54.46 per cent). Among the major states, Maharashtra comes next after Kerala with a literacy rate of 77.27 per cent, followed by Tamil Nadu with 73.47 per cent.

Kerala continues to occupy the top spot in the country, both in male literacy with 94.20 per cent and female literacy with 87.86 per cent. On the contrary, Bihar has recorded the lowest literacy rates both in case of males (60.32 per cent) and females (33.57 per cent). Seven states/ union territory having less than fifty per cent female literacy rates, are Rajasthan (44.34 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (44.24 per cent), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (42.99 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (42.98 per cent), Jammu and Kashmir (41.82 per cent), Jharkhand (39.38 per cent) and Bihar (33.57 per cent).

The states and union territories with literacy rates below the national average, are Jammu and Kashmir in north, Rajasthan and Dadra and Nagar Haveli in West, Andhra Pradesh in south, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh in central, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa in east and Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya in the north-east parts of the country. The states and union territories, which have literacy rates below the national average in respect of all the three categories i.e., persons, males and females are Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 33

Comparison of literacy rates of 2001 Census with National Sample Survey (53rd round, Jan-Dec 1997) by sex

Sl. No	India/States/ Union territories *	Literacy Rate						Difference between 2001 Census and National Sample Survey		
		2001 Census			National Sample Survey (53 rd Round, Jan-Dec 1997)					
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

	INDIA¹	65	76	54	62	73	50	3	3	4
1	Jammu & Kashmir	54	66	42	59	71	48	-5	-5	-6
2	Himachal Pradesh ²	77	86	68	77	87	70	0	-1	-2
3	Punjab	70	76	64	67	72	62	3	4	2
4	Chandigarh *	82	86	77	83	90	74	-1	-4	3
5	Haryana	69	79	56	65	76	52	4	3	4
6	Delhi*	82	87	75	85	91	76	-3	-4	-1
7	Rajasthan	61	76	44	55	73	35	6	3	9
8	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	58	71	44	56	69	41	2	2	3
9	Bihar & Jharkhand	49	62	35	49	62	34	0	0	1
10	Sikkim	70	77	61	79	86	72	-9	-9	-11
11	Arunachal Pradesh	55	64	44	60	69	48	-5	-5	-4

12	Nagaland	67	72	62	84	91	77	-17	-19	-15
13	Manipur	69	78	60	76	86	66	-7	-8	-6
14	Mizoram	88	91	86	95	96	95	-7	-5	-9
15	Tripura	74	81	65	73	79	67	1	2	-2
16	Meghalaya	63	66	60	77	79	74	-14	-13	-14
17	Assam	64	72	56	75	82	66	-11	-10	-10
18	West Bengal	69	78	60	72	81	63	-3	-3	-3
19	Orissa	64	76	51	51	64	38	13	12	13
20	Madhya Pradesh & Chhatisgarh	64	77	51	56	70	41	8	7	10
21	Gujarat ³	70	80	59	68	80	57	2	0	2
22	Daman & Diu *	81	88	70	86	95	73	-5	-7	-3
23	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	60	73	43	49	66	30	11	7	13
24	Maharashtra	77	86	68	74	84	63	3	2	5
25	Andhra Pradesh	61	71	51	54	64	43	7	7	8
26	Karnataka	67	76	57	58	66	50	9	10	7
27	Goa	82	89	76	86	93	79	-4	-4	-3
28	Lakshadweep *	88	93	82	96	98	93	-8	-5	-11
29	Kerala	91	94	88	93	96	90	-2	-2	-2
30	Tamil Nadu	73	82	65	70	80	60	3	2	5
31	Pondicherry *	81	89	74	90	94	86	-9	-5	-12
32	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	81	86	75	97	100	94	-16	-14	-19

Note:

1. See Notes 1 to 3 below Statement 32

Statement 33 compares by sex the Census of India, 2001, literacy rates with that of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 53rd round, January-December, 1997. An external validation allows to see how robust are the literacy rates as deduced from the census and vice versa.

The literacy rates derived from the Census of India, 2001, compare well with those reported by the NSSO (1997). The literacy rate of the country has apparently moved forward from 62 per cent in 1997 to 65 per cent in 2001. The male literacy rate has improved by three percentage points from 73 per cent in 1997 to 76 per cent in 2001, while the female literacy rate has surged forward by four percentage points from 50 per cent to 54 per cent.

In northern India, for Himachal Pradesh, the literacy rate reported by the Census of India, 2001, and the NSSO are same. The Census literacy rates for Haryana and Punjab have shown an increase of 4 and 3 percentage points respectively. Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh have reported lower literacy rates at the census by 5, 3 and 1 percentage points respectively. In west, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat have reported higher literacy rates by 11, 6, 3 and 2 percentage points respectively at the Census of India, 2001. Madhya Pradesh and

Chhatisgarh taken together and Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal also taken together, in central India have shown increase in literacy rates for the Census of India, 2001, by 8 and 2 percentage points respectively.

Five states and union territories of south viz., Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Goa and Kerala have reported lower literacy rates at the Census of India, 2001, by 16, 9, 8, 4 and 2 percentage points respectively. The literacy rates pertaining to the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have registered increase by 9, 7 and 3 percentage points respectively over the NSSO rates. In east, Orissa has recorded a maximum gain of 13 percentage points at the Census of India, 2001, while Sikkim and West Bengal have recorded lower literacy rates by 9 and 3 percentage points. Bihar and Jharkhand taken together have reported the same literacy rates as reported by the Census and the NSSO.

In north-east, six states out of seven viz., Nagaland, Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have recorded lower literacy rates at the Census of India, 2001. The maximum difference between the Census and NSSO rate is in the case of Nagaland followed by Meghalaya, Assam where literacy rates are reported to have gone down by 17, 14 and 11 percentage points respectively. The decrease in male and female literacy rates has been reported in same states and union territories as mentioned above except Himachal Pradesh and Tripura. The variation in male and female literacy rates differ considerably from state to state.

Statement 34

Ranking of States and Union territories by literacy rate : 1991 and 2001

State/ UT Code	India/States/Union territories *	Literacy rate		Rank		Decadal difference in literacy rate
		1991	2001	1991	2001	
1	2	3	4	6	7	8

INDIA¹	52.20	65.49	-	-	13.29
1 Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.	54.46	N.A.	-	-
2 Himachal Pradesh ²	63.94	77.13	11	11	13.19
3 Punjab	58.51	69.95	17	16	11.45
4 Chandigarh *	77.81	81.76	4	6	3.94
5 Uttaranchal	57.75	72.28	18	14	14.53
6 Haryana	55.85	68.59	22	20	12.74
7 Delhi *	75.29	81.82	6	5	6.53
8 Rajasthan	38.55	61.03	33	29	22.48
9 Uttar Pradesh	40.71	57.36	31	31	16.65
10 Bihar	37.49	47.53	34	34	10.04
11 Sikkim	56.94	69.68	20	17	12.73
12 Arunachal Pradesh	41.59	54.74	29	32	13.15
13 Nagaland	61.65	67.11	13	21	5.46
14 Manipur	59.89	68.87	16	19	8.97
15 Mizoram	82.27	88.49	2	2	6.22

16 Tripura	60.44	73.66	15	12	13.22
17 Meghalaya	49.10	63.31	24	27	14.21
18 Assam	52.89	64.28	23	24	11.39
19 West Bengal	57.70	69.22	19	18	11.52
20 Jharkhand	41.39	54.13	30	33	12.74
21 Orissa	49.09	63.61	25	26	14.52
22 Chhatisgarh	42.91	65.18	28	23	22.27
23 Madhya Pradesh	44.67	64.11	26	25	19.44
24 Gujarat ³	61.57	69.97	14	15	8.40
25 Daman & Diu *	71.20	81.09	9	9	9.89
26 Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	40.71	60.03	32	30	19.33
27 Maharashtra	64.87	77.27	10	10	12.39
28 Andhra Pradesh	44.09	61.11	27	28	17.02
29 Karnataka	56.04	67.04	21	22	11.00
30 Goa	75.51	82.32	5	4	6.81
31 Lakshadweep *	81.78	87.52	3	3	5.74
32 Kerala	89.81	90.92	1	1	1.11
33 Tamil Nadu	62.66	73.47	12	13	10.81
34 Pondicherry *	74.74	81.49	7	7	6.75
35 Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	73.02	81.18	8	8	8.16

Note:

1. The literacy rates for India for 1991 Census in column 3 exclude Jammu & Kashmir where 1991 Census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions. Similarly, to make the data comparable the 1991 rates against India exclude entire district of Kachchh, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities. Further, the literacy rates shown against India in column 4 for 2001 Census, exclude entire State of Jammu and Kashmir where 1991 Census could not be held and entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of, Census of India 2001 could not be held due to natural calamity.
2. The literacy rates shown against Himachal Pradesh in columns 3 and 4 exclude entire Kinnaur district as population enumeration for Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted in this district.
3. The literacy rates shown against Gujarat in columns 3 and 4 for 1991 and 2001 Census exclude entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.
4. N.A. stands for 'Not Available'.

Statement 34 gives ranking of states and union territories by literacy rates of 1991 and 2001 alongwith decadal difference. It is significant to note that Kerala, Mizoram and Lakshadweep which

occupied first, second and third spots respectively in 1991 retained the same positions at the Census of India, 2001, also. Chandigarh has slipped down from fourth rank in 1991 to sixth rank in 2001, while Goa has jumped forward from fifth rank in 1991 to fourth rank in 2001. Delhi has also moved forward to take the fifth position.

The most significant improvement in ranking is noticed for the states of Chhatisgarh, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. Chhatisgarh has surged forward from 28th rank in 1991 to 23rd rank in 2001, with a jump in literacy rate from 42.91 per cent in 1991 to 65.18 per cent in 2001. Rajasthan moves ahead to take the 29th rank from the 33rd position in 1991, moving forward from 38.55 per cent in 1991 to 61.03 percent in 2001, and Uttaranchal has moved from the 18th rank to the 14th rank, moving from 57.75 per cent in 1991 to 72.28 per cent in 2001.

All the states and union territories without exception have shown increase in literacy rates during 1991-2001. The states and union territories which have moved forward by more than fifteen percentage points during the decade are Rajasthan (22.48), Chhatisgarh (22.27), Madhya Pradesh (19.44), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (19.33), Andhra Pradesh (17.02) and Uttar Pradesh (16.65).

Among the states and union territories, which had literacy rates of below fifty per cent in 1991, Bihar has registered a minimum increase of 10.04 per cent points, moving from 37.49 per cent to 47.53 per cent.

Statement 35

Literacy rates and decadal difference in literacy rates by sex : 1991-2001

State/ UT Code	India/States/ Union territories*	1991		Gap in literacy rate	2001		Gap in literacy rate	Decadal difference in literacy rates	
		Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

INDIA¹	64.13	39.28	24.85	75.96	54.28	21.68	11.83	15.00
1 Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	65.75	41.82	23.93	65.75	41.82
2 Himachal Pradesh ²	75.41	52.26	23.16	86.02	68.08	17.94	10.61	15.82
3 Punjab	65.66	50.41	15.26	75.63	63.55	12.08	9.97	13.14
4 Chandigarh *	82.04	72.34	9.70	85.65	76.65	9.00	3.61	4.31
5 Uttaranchal	72.79	41.63	31.17	84.01	60.26	23.75	11.22	18.63
6 Haryana	69.10	40.47	28.62	79.25	56.31	22.94	10.16	15.84
7 Delhi *	82.01	66.99	15.02	87.37	75.00	12.36	5.36	8.01
8 Rajasthan	54.99	20.44	34.55	76.46	44.34	32.12	21.47	23.90
9 Uttar Pradesh	54.82	24.37	30.46	70.23	42.98	27.25	15.40	18.61
10 Bihar	51.37	21.99	29.38	60.32	33.57	26.75	8.95	11.58

11 Sikkim	65.70	46.76	18.94	76.73	61.46	15.27	11.03	14.70
12 Arunachal Pradesh	51.45	29.69	21.76	64.07	44.24	19.83	12.62	14.55
13 Nagaland	67.62	54.75	12.87	71.77	61.92	9.85	4.15	7.17
14 Manipur	71.63	47.60	24.03	77.87	59.70	18.17	6.24	12.10
15 Mizoram	85.61	78.60	7.01	90.69	86.13	4.56	5.08	7.53
16 Tripura	70.58	49.65	20.93	81.47	65.41	16.06	10.89	15.77
17 Meghalaya	53.12	44.85	8.27	66.14	60.41	5.73	13.02	15.56
18 Assam	61.87	43.03	18.84	71.93	56.03	15.90	10.06	13.00
19 West Bengal	67.81	46.56	21.25	77.58	60.22	17.35	9.77	13.66
20 Jharkhand	55.80	25.52	30.28	67.94	39.38	28.57	12.14	13.86
21 Orissa	63.09	34.68	28.41	75.95	50.97	24.98	12.86	16.29
22 Chhatisgarh	58.07	27.52	30.54	77.86	52.40	25.46	19.79	24.87
23 Madhya Pradesh	58.54	29.35	29.19	76.80	50.28	26.52	18.26	20.93
24 Gujarat ³	73.39	48.92	24.47	80.50	58.60	21.90	7.11	9.68
25 Daman & Diu *	82.66	59.40	23.26	88.40	70.37	18.03	5.73	10.97
26 Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	53.56	26.98	26.58	73.32	42.99	30.32	19.76	16.01
27 Maharashtra	76.56	52.32	24.24	86.27	67.51	18.75	9.71	15.20
28 Andhra Pradesh	55.13	32.72	22.42	70.85	51.17	19.68	15.72	18.45
29 Karnataka	67.26	44.34	22.93	76.29	57.45	18.84	9.03	13.12
30 Goa	83.64	67.09	16.55	88.88	75.51	13.37	5.24	8.42
31 Lakshadweep *	90.18	72.89	17.29	93.15	81.56	11.59	2.98	8.67
32 Kerala	93.62	86.17	7.45	94.20	87.86	6.34	0.58	1.69
33 Tamil Nadu	73.75	51.33	22.42	82.33	64.55	17.78	8.58	13.22
34 Pondicherry *	83.68	65.63	18.06	88.89	74.13	14.76	5.21	8.50
35 Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	78.99	65.46	13.53	86.07	75.29	10.78	7.08	9.83

Note:

1. Please see notes 1 to 3 below Statement 34.
2. N.A. stands for 'Not Available'.

Statement 35 presents literacy rates and decadal difference in literacy rates by sex for 1991-2001. Out of the thirteen states and union territories, whose literacy rates are below the current national average of 65.38 (see Statement 32), nine occupy also the first nine positions in male-female gaps in literacy rates. Rajasthan, unfortunately, continues to occupy the unceremonious top position in

male-female gap literacy rates. However, the gap of 34.55 percentage points in 1991 for Rajasthan has marginally come down to 32.12 percentage points. The other eight states and union territories besides Rajasthan in this group, are Dadra and Nagar Haveli (gap of 30.32 percentage points), Jharkhand (gap of 28.57 percentage points), Uttar Pradesh (gap of 27.25 percentage points), Bihar (gap of 26.75 percentage points), Madhya Pradesh (gap of 26.52 percentage points), Chhattisgarh (gap of 25.46 percentage points), Orissa (gap of 24.98 percentage points) and Jammu and Kashmir (gap of 23.93 percentage points).

The minimum gap in male-female literacy rates any where in the country has been observed for Mizoram, (4.56 percentage points). Mizoram, which had also reported the lowest differential in male-female literacy rates during 1991 with 7.01 percentage points, has further narrowed it down to 4.56 in 2001 to lead all the states/ union territories in the country. In 1991, Mizoram was followed by Kerala (gap of 7.45 percentage points) and Meghalaya (gap of 8.27 percentage points). In 2001, Meghalaya and Kerala have interchanged their positions; Meghalaya (gap of 5.73 percentage points), is followed by Kerala (gap of 6.34 percentage points). It is important to note that in case of Meghalaya, although the combined literacy rate of the state is below the national average, the difference between male and female literacy rates is very small.

The highest visible improvement in male literacy rate during 1991-2001, is for Rajasthan, where it has moved forward by 21.47 percentage points. It is followed by Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh which show an improvement of 19.79, 19.76, 18.26, 15.72, 15.40 percentage points respectively. The minimum increase of 0.58 percentage points has taken place in Kerala since the state has almost reached the saturation point.

On the pattern of male literacy, the first two top notches in decadal improvement in female literacy rates is claimed by Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. In case of female literacy, Chhattisgarh occupies the first place, recording a creditable increase of 24.87 per cent during 1991-2001, closely followed by Rajasthan with an upward movement of 23.90 percentage points. The other states and union territories reporting significant improvement in female literacy rates during 1991-2001 are Madhya Pradesh (20.93 per cent), Uttaranchal (18.63 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (18.61 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (18.45 per cent), Orissa (16.29 per cent) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (16.01 per cent). As in case of males and for the same reasons, Kerala has also shown the least increase of 1.69 percentage points in female literacy rates. The female literacy rates have increased at faster rate than male literacy rates in all the states and union territories except Dadra and Nagar Haveli during 1991-2001.

Statement – 36

Percent distribution of population and literates by literacy rates : 1991-2001

Range of Literacy Rate	Share of Country's									
	States/ Union territories	1991				2001				States/ Union territories
		Population		Literates		Population		Literates		
		Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Persons										
Total		34 836,650,839	100.00	358,402,626	100.00		34 1,014,651,658	100.00	562,010,743	100.00
0-40	2	108,536,544	12.97	32,734,920	9.13	-	-	0	-	0
40-50	9	320,969,442	38.36	111,881,893	31.22	1	82,878,796	8.17	31,675,607	5.64

50-60	8	181,572,194	21.70	84,980,438	23.71	3	194,053,404	19.13	90,228,248	16.05
60-70	6	183,310,194	21.91	97,782,088	27.28	16	510,886,031	50.35	284,935,086	50.70
70-80	6	12,422,484	1.48	7,840,348	2.19	5	176,527,114	17.40	116,431,611	20.72
80+	3	29,839,981	3.57	23,182,939	6.47	9	50,306,313	4.96	38,740,191	6.89
Males										
Total	34	434,228,007	100.00	228,983,134	100.00	34	524,795,963	100.00	336,969,695	100.00
0-40	-	-	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	0
40-50	-	-	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	0
50-60	10	208,042,806	47.91	92,254,860	40.29	-	-	0	-	0
60-70	8	106,647,902	24.56	58,560,297	25.57	4	58,757,032	11.20	29,660,566	8.80
70-80	8	98,294,116	22.64	61,792,179	26.99	15	324,738,236	61.88	202,720,904	60.16
80+	8	21,243,183	4.89	16,375,798	7.15	15	141,300,695	26.92	104,588,225	31.04
Females										
Total	34	402,422,832	100.00	129,419,492	100.00	34	489,855,695	100.00	225,041,048	100.00
0-40	10	204,531,943	50.83	43,641,327	33.72	2	52,772,983	10.77	14,906,863	6.62
40-50	10	98,761,703	24.54	37,070,972	28.64	4	106,293,909	21.70	37,540,310	16.68
50-60	6	78,314,264	19.46	34,188,190	26.42	9	167,650,340	34.22	77,102,225	34.26
60-70	4	5,366,131	1.33	2,977,855	2.30	10	138,328,614	28.24	77,188,227	34.30
70-80	3	639,268	0.16	397,535	0.31	6	7,979,142	1.63	5,163,802	2.30
80+	1	14,809,523	3.68	11,143,613	8.61	3	16,830,707	3.44	13,139,621	5.84

Note:

- 1 The data presented in this statement exclude Jammu and Kashmir for the sake of comparability. The census data for 1991 census is not available as the Census of India, 1991, was not conducted in this state due to disturbed conditions.
- 2 For the sake of comparability the data presented exclude the figures of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat State and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities.

The statistics presented in Table 2 have been summarized in Statement 36. The comparable figures of the 1991 and 2001 Censuses have been presented in this table. In 1991 Census, eleven states and union territories reported literacy rates fifty per cent and below and had a share of fifty one per cent of the country's population. The corresponding number has reduced to only one i.e., Bihar in the Census of India, 2001, with a share about eight per cent of the country's population. The number of the states and union territories having more than eighty per cent literacy rate in 1991 census was only three. This has increased to nine at the Census of India, 2001. There were ten states and union territories having male literacy rates in the range of the fifty-sixty per cent in 1991 census, accounting for 47.91 per cent of the country's male population. It is heartening to note that in all the states and union territories in 2001 census the male literacy rate is now over sixty per cent. The number of states and union territories having male literacy of seventy per cent and above was sixteen in 1991 census and has now almost doubled, the corresponding number being thirty. Further, it is significant to note that there were as many as twenty states and union territories in the country where female literacy rate was fifty per cent or less at the 1991 census. These twenty states/ union territories account for nearly three fourth of the India's female population. This has dramatically come down to only six states/ union territories at the Census of

India, 2001, with a share of about one third of the country's female population. On the other hand there were eight states and union territories with more than sixty per cent literacy rate in 1991 census. This number has now gone up to nineteen in the Census of India, 2001, with a population share of thirty three per cent. Thus, the decade 1991-2001 registered a visible improvement in both male and female literacy with the latter having an edge. The fruits of this major achievement during the decade are bound to have a positive bearing on the future aspirations of our society.

