An attempt to estimate the growth of literacy in India in the next 20 years is presented. Consideration is taken of existing facilities and the likely increase of present literacy programs. The point is made that the expansion of primary education was mainly responsible for the growth of literacy in the country. Estimates presented are based on school enrollment in the past and the anticipated school enrollment in the future up to 1981. Two age groups of 5-9 and 10-14 were chosen for this study. The total number of literates in each age group was broken into its component parts in terms of the school enrollment in the age group in the year 1961 and the previous years in the standard accepted initially as the minimum level for census literacy. Data analysis showed that the number of literates in these age groups calculated from the school enrollments in 1961 and the preceding years fell far below the number of literates as enumerated in the census. It is concluded that completion of the second standard of the primary education in India enables one to achieve literacy of the level laid down by the Census of India. It is also concluded that the bulk of the working force in the country will remain in the same state of illiteracy in the next 20 years as at present, and will require at least another 20 years for achieving 100 per cent literacy of the Census level, if the present conditions are to continue indefinitely in the future.