GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2605
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021

Share of GDP in education

2605 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of ***Education*** be pleased to state:

a) the reason for the NEP recommended spending of 6 per cent of GDP on education not been implemented in the budget for 2021-22;
b) whether Government propose to implement the 6 per cent of GDP spending as envisaged in the NEP;
c) if so, by which year can the target spending of 6 per cent will be achieved; and
d) the impact of reduced budget allocation for education as compared to BE 2020-21 on the efforts to get students back into the education system after the pandemic and the ways in which Government plans to work with the reduced budget this year?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a)to(c): The recommended level of 6% of GDP for the public expenditure on education in India was first envisaged in the National Policy on Education, 1968. This was reiterated in the Policy of 1986 and the same was further reaffirmed in the 1992 review of the Policy. The current public (Government-Centre and States) expenditure on education in India has been around 4.43% of GDP (Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure, 2017-18). The National Education Policy, 2020 unequivocally endorsed and envisioned a substantial increase in public investment in education by both the Central government and all State Governments. As proposed in the NEP 2020, the Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.

(d): Budget Estimate of MoE for 2020-21 was Rs. 99311.52 crores which was revised to Rs. 85089.07 crores. BE for 2021-22 is Rs. 93224.31 crores, which is an increase of 9.6% over RE 2020-21. Inspite of pandemic, it was ensured that there is no waste of academic year. Physical presence of the students in educational institution is subject to relevant guidelines (instructions) SOPs of the Government.

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