GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No-817 ANSWERED ON- 14/12/2022

FOSTERING OF HIGHER EDUCATION

817 SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will take constructive steps to reorient university education by recalibrating the prevailing system of teaching-learning, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has devised an innovative mechanism to foster higher education subject to the demands of various sectors, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will take affirmative measures to upgrade the arena of higher education to meet the demands of both students and industries against the backdrop of rapid technological development, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government will increase the budget allocation for higher education to 6 per cent of GDP as envisaged by the 1967 policy?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions a complete overhaul and re-energising of the higher education system toovercome the existing challenges and thereby deliver high-quality higher education, with equity and inclusion. The policy's vision includes key changes to the current system. Ministry of Education, other relevant Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments and implementing agencies under their purview have started taking initiatives towards implementation of NEP, 2020.

(b) & (c): The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman, Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad for preparing short term and medium term perspective plan for Engineering Education. The Committee, inter-alia, recommended that courses on nine emerging technologies like AI, DATA Science, IOT, Cyber Security Robotics, Design, Quantum Computing, AR/VR, Block Chain and 3D Printing should be introduced in UG Engineering Courses. AICTE has also prepared Model Curriculum for courses in Emerging Areas permitted in Engineering Institutes from the Academic Year 2020-21.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also undertaken a series of measures to strengthen collaboration between industry and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). These include providing opportunities to students at all HEIs for internships with local industries, businesses, artists, crafts persons, etc.; provision for engaging Professor of Practice in Universities and Colleges to bring industry experience in classroom teaching; setting up of start-up incubation centres, Research and Development Cells; inclusion of ability enhancement courses and skill enhancement courses.

(d): One of the fundamental principles of NEP, 2020 is substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system as well as the encouragement and facilitation of true

philanthropic private and community participation. It unequivocally endorses and envisions a substantial increase in public investment in education both by the Central Government and all State Governments. It envisages the Centre and States to work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has written to all its implementing agencies, Regulatory Bodies, State/UT Government, Other stakeholder Ministries/Departments etc. for taking steps for implementation of NEP, 2020. In this regard, MoE has, for the first time, been allocated a record Budget of more than Rs. One Lakh Crore for its activities for the financial year 2022-23, which is an increase of 18.5% over Revised Estimate 2021-22.
