

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-62
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2023

Multidisciplinary education and research

62 Shri Digvijaya Singh:

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

- (a) whether the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020 is consistent with the Right to Education (RTE) Act and the fundamental right to compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken or intends to take steps to implement the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU) in accordance with NEP recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the rationale for not expanding education spending from 1.2 per cent of GDP to 6 per cent as proposed in the policy document?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 62 FOR REPLY ON 08.02.2023 ASKED BY SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING MULTIDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

(a) & (b): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides every child of the age of 6-14 years, the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till the completion of his or her elementary education. National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 aims at a concerted national effort to ensure universal access and afford the opportunity to all children of the country to obtain quality holistic education—including vocational education from pre-school to Grade 12. The Department of School Education and Literacy with effect from 2018-19 has launched an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education Samagra Shiksha. The scheme has now been aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

(c) & (d): In tune with the recommendations of NEP-2020, in September, 2022 the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued Guidelines for Transforming Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) into Multidisciplinary Institutions. The Objective of these guidelines are to transform single-stream institutions into large multidisciplinary universities and autonomous degree-awarding HEIs, and strengthen institutional infrastructure necessary for multidisciplinary education and research. The guidelines are available at https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5599305_Guidelines-for-Transforming-Higher-Education-Institutions-into-Multidisciplinary-Institutions.pdf

(e): As per the latest figures of Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education, the percentage of Public Expenditure on Education (i.e. Centre plus States put together) as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is 4.64% in 2020-21. This has increased from 3.84% in 2013-14. The total Public Expenditure on education has more than doubled, from Rs. 430878.82 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.919145.19 crore in 2020-21.

The NEP 2020 unequivocally endorses and envisions a substantial increase in public investment in education both by the Central Government and all State Governments. It states that the Centre and States work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP.
