

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No - 3215
ANSWERED ON-29/03/2023

EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION TO TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

3215 Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

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

- (a) whether any provision has been made to sensitize teachers and school administration for the protection of children from sexual minorities from bullying and harassment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step towards providing equitable quality education to transgender students and whether the same has been done for children with different sexual and gender identities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b): Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, under which, teacher and school heads are trained under NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement), a nation-wide integrated teacher training program. NISHTHA, inter-alia, covers relevance of Gender Dimensions in Teaching and Learning Process, which helps teachers to use and adopt learning activities that foster gender sensitive classroom environment. Further, teachers are also oriented on counseling, provisions of POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act, School Safety guidelines, helpline and emergency numbers, drop-box for complaints, etc.

In addition, 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security' developed by DoSEL, also contain provisions for ensuring the safety and security of children studying in Government, Government-Aided and Private Schools. These safety guidelines envisage constitution of anti-bullying committees, Parent Teacher Associations, School Management Committees as preventive measures to check such activities.

(c) & (d): Samagra Shiksha aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education and has been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of Samagra Shiksha. The scheme reaches out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, minority communities and transgender.

NEP, 2020 envisages an inclusive and structural change in the educational system. It focuses on 'Equitable and Inclusive Education' which reverberates the idea that no child should be left behind in terms of educational opportunity because of their background and socio-cultural identities. NEP, 2020 identifies transgender children as Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) and provides for equitable quality education, inter-alia, for all such students. This includes provisions for assisting transgender children in gaining access to education, support for community-based interventions that address local context-specific barriers to transgender children's access to and participation in education, thereby aiming to eliminate any remaining disparity in access to education for children from any gender or other SEDGs.
