

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 644
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023**

Making education accessible to weaker sections

644. Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to ensure that the "Private- Philanthropy partnership", a term in National Education Policy (NEP-2020), will not pave the way for complete Corporatisation in both school and higher education sectors, details thereof;

(b) whether Government would re-design the NEP-2020 making education accessible to the socially and economically marginalised sections of society, instead of backing away from ensuring education in the public sector; and

(c) whether Government will take concrete steps to strengthen Government-funded education system making higher education accessible to the socially and economically marginalised sections, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 inter-alia provides that public and private schools are to be assessed and accredited on the same criteria, benchmarks, and processes, emphasizing online and offline public disclosure and transparency. NEP 2020 also proposes similar standards of audit and disclosure as a 'not-for-profit' entity to all the education institutions. Surplus, if any, will be reinvested in the educational sector. Similarly, in higher education, all HEIs - public and private - shall be treated at par observing common guidelines. Multiple mechanisms with checks and balances will combat and stop the commercialization of higher education.

The matter relating to fees and its components in schools are regulated in terms of Rules and Instructions of the State Government concerned. So far as schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are concerned, Rule 7.6 of Affiliation Bye-Laws, 2018 states that the acts and regulations of the Central and State/UT Governments enacted/framed in connection with regulation of fee in respect of the various categories of the schools situated in the State are applicable to the school affiliated with CBSE.

The Universities are autonomous bodies which are governed by their respective Acts / Statutes etc. Based on the type of universities, the criteria for fee structure is administered. In respect of

IITs/IIITs/NITs/IIEST/IIMs etc, the fee structure is regulated as per the provisions of the respective Acts/Statutes.

(b) and (c): National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It proposes special emphasis to be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). Accordingly, the Government has been taking various initiatives for making higher education accessible to the socially and economically marginalised sections such as scholarships / fellowships offered to SC/ST students, fee exemption or partially reimbursed; 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section; reservation for SC/ST/OBC; preparatory classes for SC/STs for appearing in JEE exam; JEE exam being conducted in local / regional languages; Minority Institutions have been set up; etc.

The Government has mandated Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to comply with the statutory provisions of the Central Education Institutes (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, as amended from time to time, for admission of reserved category candidates to various programmes including PhD. Various steps to fill up the PG/ PhD seats for students from marginalized communities that include: (i) Adherence of guidelines for implementation of reservation policy of the Government; (ii) Age relaxation upto 5 years; (iii) Relaxation in minimum qualifying marks; (iv) Exemption of tuition fee to students from marginalized communities; (v) Subsidized application fee; (vi) apart from Tuition fee waiver, assistant-ship is extended to SC/ST scholars of the Institute for the sixth year of their PhD programme to ensure that the students do not drop out due to lack of financial resources; (vii) More PhD applicants are shortlisted against the number of reserved category seats available for PhD admission to ensure that enough applicants are available for admission under reserved categories; (viii) wide publicity is given to attract more applications on various platforms including social media, newspapers, websites, etc.
