

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 218
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023**

Leadership Training Programme of NIEPA

***218. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether participants of National Institute of Planning and Administration (NIEPA) and Harvard University, USA leadership training program, Harvard University could not participate in year 2019-20 whereas non-refundable money was paid to Harvard University;
- (b) if so, details thereof and how many were from North-Eastern Region;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action on the matter as taxpayers money has been wasted by NIEPA and participants from remote areas of North-Eastern part could not participate though due to COVID the period got extended; and
- (d) whether Government took any action on this serious lapse, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 218 FOR REPLY ON 09.08.2023 ASKED BY SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME OF NIEPA

(a) to (d): Leadership Programme for Academicians (LEAP) as one of the components under the Central Sector Scheme Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers & Teaching (PMMMNTT) was introduced in the light of recommendation of Group of Secretaries (GoS) in the year 2018 for two years i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20 till the conclusion of the Mission period i.e. March 2020. The three-week leadership development training programme consisted of a two-week domestic and one-week foreign training component. National Institution of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) was identified as one of the centres to conduct LEAP for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20. For the year 2019-20, there were 30 participants for the programme, out of which 3 participants were from North-Eastern Region. Domestic component of LEAP training was completed in March 2020. Harvard University, USA was selected by NIEPA for foreign component and NIEPA had made payment as per agreement executed between them. However, due to COVID-19 protocol, the movement of participants for international travel was restricted and the training of foreign component could not be undertaken.

NIEPA had signed an agreement with Harvard University, USA in which there is a clause in the agreement which stipulates that, in the unlikely event of programme cancellation, the Harvard University, USA will refund NIEPA deposit in full. NIEPA has taken up the matter with Harvard University, USA to return the amount released to them for the programme.
