

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2920
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025**

Transformative changes in school and higher education

2920 **Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:**

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

- (a) whether transformative changes have taken place both in school and higher education after announcement of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) since the inception of NEP, as per Auditing Instrument of Sustainability in Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken in providing educational access to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) since the inception of NEP, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a): A number of transformative changes have taken place both in school and higher education after announcement of National Education Policy (NEP 2020). In School Education several initiatives have been taken such as PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) for upgradation of schools; Samagra Shiksha for providing quality education with an inclusive and equitable classroom environment for all children; National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3; Vidya-Pravesh—Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module; PM e-VIDYA to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education; launch of National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) and Jadui Pitara for play-based learning teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3 to 8 years; PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development); NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0; Vidya Samiksha Kendra; Integrated Teacher Education Programme; National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST); National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) for creating a unifying national digital infrastructure to energise and catalyse the education ecosystem, implementation of a scheme “New India Literacy Programme or ULLAS” targeting all non-literates age 15 years and above, etc.

In Higher Education, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out such as National Credit Framework (NCrF); National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF); Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programme; Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programme offered by Higher Education Institutions; Transforming HEIs into multi-disciplinary Institutions; pursuing two Academic Programme simultaneously; Automated Permanent Academic Account

Registry (APAAR ID) of individual student which will act as lifelong identity to track their educational journey and achievements from, pre-primary to higher education; introduction of PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students inter-alia enabling collateral free, guarantor free loan through a simple, transparent, student-friendly and entirely digital application process; revised regulation of ODL / Online Education; permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform; launch of new SWAYAM Plus portal with aim to enhance skill and upskilling and reskilling of existing manpower employed in different sectors; Integration of technology in administration of HEIs from admission to grant of degree through SAMARTH; guidelines on Professor of Practice to enable HEIs to work with industry experts; guidelines for supernumerary seats for admitting students from abroad in Indian HEIs; Academic collaboration between Indian and Foreign HEIs to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes; Regulation for permitting Foreign HEIs to setup campuses in India; enhanced reputation of the Indian HEIs in international ranking; embedding of Indian Knowledge system in the education etc.

(b) : National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, aims at increasing the higher education GER to 50% by 2035. Initiatives of the Government has resulted in an increased GER to 28.4 in the year 2021-22 from that of 23.7 in the year 2014-15 in higher education as per AISHE report.

(c) : The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) announced on 29.07.2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes, including providing greater access to women.

Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), which is meant for meritorious students of Economically Weaker Sections and is open to students of all categories including SC and ST categories. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students of class IX every year with continuation / renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per year starting from class-IX and continues till class-XII. Scholarship amount is transferred directly into the account of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

Similarly, various initiatives for making higher education accessible to the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) have been taken such as scholarships / fellowships, waiver of fees to SC/ST students; 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section; reservation for SC/ST/OBC; preparatory classes for SC/STs for appearing in JEE exam; JEE exam conduct in local / regional languages etc.
