

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2032  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2016**

**Priority to Higher Education System**

**†2032. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:**

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether concerns have been raised that the Ministry is giving priority to private higher education system in place of primary and middle education in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard along with the corrective measures taken by the Government?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)**

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The extant National Policy on Education (NPE) provides for a National System of Education which implies that, up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curriculum framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. The Government is committed to provide equitable access to quality education to all sections of the society. Having nearly reached the goals of universalizing elementary education, and making substantial gains in expanding access to secondary and higher education, the focus is on improving the quality of education at all levels. Several schemes are being implemented by the Ministry so as to enhance access to public funded education across all levels ranging from elementary, secondary, higher and technical education. These include implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) which makes it incumbent on Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of 6-14 years of age and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalizing elementary education. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme aims at making good quality education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14 to 18 years. In higher Education, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), state higher educational institutions are being strengthened.

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Presently, the Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy (NEP) for which it has carried out a year-long highly participative, inclusive and multi-pronged consultation process across 33 themes; through online, grassroots and thematic expert consultations, and meetings were also held with Government of India Ministries and

State Governments. The Ministry constituted Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy submitted its report in May, 2016 and thereafter the Ministry formulated 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016' on which comments/suggestions were invited from the Government of India Ministries, State Government, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other stakeholders up to 30th September, 2016. The five pillars of NEP would be Accessibility, Equity, Affordability, Quality and Accountability. A Committee under an eminent educationist will be appointed to prepare final draft NEP.

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