

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2280  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018**

**Aging Population**

**2280. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the International Monetary Fund has warned that aging population in India would drag economy growth and urged policy makers to step up their response to shifting demographics;
- (b) whether it is true that rapid aging causes smaller workforce in the future and potentially causes lower productivity growth and could face lower annual GDP; and
- (c) if so, the details of the measures the Government has taken/proposed to be taken to deal with aging population problem in India?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**(Dr. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (c): India is one of the youngest nations in the World, with about 65% of the population under 35 years of age. The youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.5% of the population. India is expected to become the 4th largest economy by 2025, only after the United States, China and Japan, contributing about 5.5%-6% to the world GDP. While most of these developed countries face the risk of an ageing workforce, India is expected to have a very favourable demographic profile. This necessitates that the youth in the country are equipped with the skills and knowledge to enter the workforce through education and training. The Government has accorded high priority to education sector. The National Education Policy was framed in 1986, modified in 1992 envisages a National System of Education to bring about uniformity in education, making adult education programmes a mass movement, providing universal access, ensuring retention and improving quality in elementary education, special emphasis on education of girls, establishment of pace-setting schools, like Navodaya Vidyalayas in each district, vocationalisation of secondary education, synthesis of knowledge and inter-disciplinary research in higher education, starting more Open Universities in the States, strengthening of the All India Council of Technical Education, encouraging sports, physical education, Yoga and adoption of an effective evaluation method. NPE 1986 has stated that the open learning system has been initiated in order to augment opportunities for higher education, as an instrument of democratising education and to make it a lifelong process. Currently, the Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students

with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. Initially, a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy was constituted which submitted its report in May, 2016 and thereafter, the Ministry prepared 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016'. Both these documents are treated as inputs for policy. New Education Policy was also discussed in the 64<sup>th</sup> CABE meeting held in October, 2016. Both these documents are treated as inputs for policy formulation. The exercise of preparing a New Education Policy is still ongoing as a Committee for Draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan has been constituted, which is expected to submit its report010 shortly.

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