

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1768
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Education in Mother Tongue up to Class Fifth

1768 **SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government under the New Education Policy proposes to provide education to children up to class fifth in their mother tongue;
- (b) if so, the efforts made in this direction and the details of the languages proposed in this regard;
- (c) whether the States has been consulted in this regard; and
- (d) the response of the States thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (d): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, inter-alia, provides that wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, is to be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. Further, the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for Holistic Advancement - NISHTHA 3.0 has been launched to train the teachers from Early Childhood care and Education (ECCE) upto grade V. It has 12 training modules including a module on Multilingual teaching in foundational years, which also covers usage of mother tongue / home language in teaching.

During the formulation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a large number of consultations were held with different stakeholders including State/UT Governments, Government of India Ministries, Members of Parliament, public etc. Before finalizing the policy,

a highly participative, inclusive and multi-pronged consultation process, through online, grassroots and thematic expert consultations, involving State Governments was carried out. After receipt of the Draft National Education Policy 2019 (Draft NEP 2019) from the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. K Kasturirangan, the Draft NEP 2019 was uploaded on Ministry of Education's website at https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf and also at <https://innovate.mygov.in/list-nep/> to elicit comments and suggestions from the various stakeholders. Further, letters were written to States/UTs Governments and Government of India Ministries inviting their views and comments on DNEP 2019. An Education Dialogue with Hon^{ble} MPs of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Karnataka & Odisha was organized on three consecutive days i.e on 31.07.2019, 01.08.2019 & 02.08.2019. Two meetings, one with State Education Secretaries of School Education and another with State Secretaries of Higher & Technical Education were held on 09.07.2019 and 08.08.2019 respectively. Around 2 lakh suggestions on the Draft National Education Policy were received from various stakeholders. A special meeting of CAGE on National Education Policy was held on 21.09.2019, to discuss the National Education Policy. 26 Education Ministers of various States and UTs, representatives of States and Union Territories, Members of CAGE, Heads of Autonomous Organizations, Vice Chancellors of Universities, attended the meeting along with senior officials of the Central and State Governments. A meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee was held on 7th November, 2019 to discuss the Draft National Education Policy. As per the procedure, inter-ministerial consultation on the draft Cabinet Note on National Education Policy 2020 was done. There has been wide publicity and feedback from all stakeholders. Accordingly, based on all feedback/comments received from various stakeholders on the Draft NEP, the Ministry finalized the National Education Policy, 2020 and the same has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 29.07.2020.

As a follow up of the NEP-2020, the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational stage has been released by the Ministry of Education on 20th October, 2022. This Framework clearly states that since children learn concepts most rapidly and deeply in their home language, the primary medium of information would optimally be the child's home language/mother-tongue/familiar language.
