

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4218
ANSWERED ON 27/03/2023

Teachers Training for Multilingual Education Policy under NEP

4218. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to provide support to train school teachers in regional languages to implement the policy of regional-language based instructions for school children as envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any detailed action plan for the implementation of the Multilingual Education (MLE) policy under the NEP;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of any pilot project the Government has undertaken or plans to undertake to try the MLE model in schools; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (f): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 has placed a strong emphasis on multilingual and multicultural education. 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.

In addition, National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for Holistic Advancement - NISHTHA 3.0 online has been launched to train the teachers from Early Childhood care and Education (ECCE) upto grade V. It has 12 training modules including a dedicated module on Multilingual teaching in foundational years, which also covers usage of mother tongue / home language in teaching.

As per National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, implementation of the Policy requires multiple initiatives and actions, which are to be taken up in a synchronized and systematic manner, by multiple bodies including Ministry of Education, CABE, State/UT Governments, education-related Ministries, State Departments of Education, Boards, NTA, the regulatory bodies of school and higher education, NCERT, SCERTs, schools and HEIs.

In pursuance of the goals and objectives of the NEP 2020 and to assist States, UTs and other organisations in this task, the Department of School Education & Literacy has developed an indicative and suggestive NEP Implementation Plan for School Education, 'Students' and 'Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)'. SARTHAQ provides for States/UTs to develop guidelines, resources, and support material for teachers on multilingualism, in order to harness the power of language. For introducing home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction, following steps can be taken up in any chronology or even simultaneously, or as deemed fit by the State/UT:

- (i) Step 1: Linguistic mapping of each area
- (ii) Step 2: Sensitization and orientation of educational administrators
- (iii) Step 3: Orientation of teachers on multilingual education
- (iv) Step 4: Creation of learning material in local languages
- (v) Step 5: Initiating the classroom teaching in mother tongue in certain areas on priority
- (vi) Step 6: Phased wise introduction in the rest of the schools

Further, Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of the States/UTs. The recruitment, service conditions, training and deployment of teachers come under the purview of the respective State and Union Territory (UT) Government. Ministry of Education requests the States and UT Governments for training of teachers through Review meetings and advisories from time to time. Further, the Central Government through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, provides assistance to the States and UTs for training of in-service teachers as per the prescribed norms for various levels of schooling.
