

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-466
ANSWERED ON 06/02/2023

NEP and MERU

466. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:
SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020 is consistent with the Right to Education Act and the fundamental right to compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps to implement the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU) in accordance with NEP recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the rationale for not expanding education spending from 1.2 percent of GDP to 6 percent in the policy documents?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides every child of the age of 6-14 years, the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till the completion of his or her elementary education. National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 aims at a concerted national effort to ensure universal access and afford the opportunity to all children of the country to obtain quality holistic education—including vocational education from pre-school to Grade 12. The Department of School Education and Literacy with effect from 2018-19 has launched an Integrated Centrally

Sponsored Scheme for School Education Samagra Shiksha. The scheme has now been aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

(c) & (d): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, regarding Institutional Restructuring and Consolidation, states that the main thrust of the policy is to end the fragmentation of higher education by transforming higher education institutions into large multidisciplinary universities, colleges, and HEI clusters/Knowledge Hubs, each of which aims to have 3,000 or more students. The NEP, 2020 further states that moving to large multidisciplinary universities and HEI clusters is thus the highest recommendation of this policy regarding the structure of higher education.

On 02.09.2022 the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines for Transforming Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) into multidisciplinary institutions. The objectives of these guidelines are to transform single-stream institutions into large multidisciplinary universities and autonomous degree-awarding HEIs, and strengthen institutional infrastructure necessary for multidisciplinary education and research. These guidelines also inter-alia state that capacity-building for faculty to teach, train and to do research in multidisciplinary academic programmes need adequate focus and visualize establishment of Department of Education in multidisciplinary institutions. The guidelines are available at https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/5599305_Guidelines-for-Transforming-Higher-Education-Institutions-into-Multidisciplinary-Institutions.pdf

(e): NEP 2020 unequivocally endorses and envisions a substantial increase in public investment in education both by the Central government and all State Governments. It states that the Centre and States work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
