

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5113**

**ANSWERED ON 03/04/2023**

**Agriculture Subject in School Education**

5113. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that for integrating education with rural development, agriculture should be a subject in primary schools in both rural and urban areas;
- (b) if so, the steps that have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether it is true, that the school education should be adopted in such a manner where agriculture and related sciences is included in the school curriculum for introducing agricultural courses as a preferred option for the students under the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**(SMT ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (d) Agriculture has been mentioned in Para 4.27, 5.25, 17.7, 20.3, 23.9 and 4.30 of National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020.

Para 4.27 of National Education Policy (NEP) 2022 refers to the traditional knowledge of India that is both sustainable and strives for the welfare of all. Para 5.6 is refers to hiring of local eminent persons or experts as ‘master instructors’ in various subjects, such as in traditional local arts, vocational crafts, entrepreneurship, agriculture, or any other subject where local expertise exists, to benefit students and help preserve and promote local knowledge and professions. Para 20.3 of NEP mentioned that ‘Both capacity and quality of agriculture and allied disciplines must be improved in order to increase agricultural productivity through better skilled graduates and technicians, innovative research, and market-based extension linked to technologies and practices.

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) under Ministry of Education, has Agriculture based courses which are offered as Certificate and Diploma courses. NIOS also provides academic

courses at secondary and senior secondary level, vocational & skill development programmes, open basic education and teacher education programmes through open and distance learning mode. NIOS has initiated a Senior Secondary course “**Krishi: Production, Processing and Marketing**” for NIOS learners, as one of the subject at the Senior Secondary level. The Senior Secondary agriculture course provides opportunities to learn basic agricultural skills and knowledge, employability skills, and professional growth and development.

The National Curriculum Framework has a list of 25 areas Identified for the Focus Group Papers and Knowledge of India is part of Cross-cutting theme. Draft Position papers have been prepared at National and State level.

In order to incorporate these elements in a scientific manner, Ministry of Education has established Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Division in AICTE in 2020 with a vision to promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on all aspects of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), preserve and disseminate IKS knowledge for further research and societal applications, which includes agriculture.

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