GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5243
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

Budget Allocation/Mental Well-Being of Students under NEP 2020

5243. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Budget allocation for Education sector is sufficient to implement all provisions of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020;

(b) if not, whether the Government has any alternative plan to achieve it;

(c) whether there is any provision for mandating for counsellor comprehensive policy to ensure the mental well-being of the enrolled students under NEP 2020; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) and (b): National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) unequivocally endorses and envisions a substantial increase in public investment in education by both the Central and all State Governments. The Centre and the States / UTs work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP. Various schemes/projects/programmes run by Ministry of Education have been aligned with NEP 2020. As far as Central Government is concerned, a budget provision of Rs. 112899.47 Cr. has been made for the Ministry of Education for the financial year 2023-24.

(c) and (d): The Ministry of Education has undertaken a proactive initiative, named, 'Manodarpan', covering a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing during the COVID outbreak and beyond. A Working Group, having experts from the fields of education, mental health and psychosocial issues as its members, has been set up to monitor and promote the mental health issues and concerns of students and to facilitate providing support to address the mental health and psychosocial aspects during and after COVID-19, through counselling services, online resources and helpline. Under the Manodarpan initiative a Web page (URL: http://manodarpan.education.gov.in) has been created on the Ministry of Education website carrying advisory guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Practical tips, posters, videos, do's and don'ts for students, teachers/faculty and families for psychosocial support have been uploaded on the Web-page. Handbook on Mental Health & Wellbeing- A perspective; Handbook on 21st century skills for school students and a national level directory of counsellors have been

uploaded on the Manodarpan web page. Regular Webinars are organized under the aegis of Manodarpan on mental health and wellbeing of children.

A National Toll-free Helpline (8448440632) for a country-wide outreach to students from schools, colleges and universities to provide them tele-counselling to address their mental health and psychosocial issues during and after the COVID-19 situation has been set up.

NCERT has started 'NCERT Counselling Services for School Chidren' in April 2020 to help school students across the country share their concerns. This service is provided free of charge by about 270 counsellors across different regions of the country.

Under the aegis of the School Health Programme under Ayushman Bharat, NCERT has developed a comprehensive package titled "Training and Resource Material: Health and Wellness of School-going Children". A specific module has been included on "Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health", which has activities related to the mental health and well-being of students and teachers.

The University Grants Commission issued advisories to the Universities in April 2020 and January 2023 regarding Mental Health & Well-Being of Students during and after COVID-19 outbreak and National Suicide Prevention Strategy respectively. From time to time, UGC in consultation with stakeholders, update the guidelines for Promotion of Physical Fitness, Sports, Students' Health, Welfare, Pscyhological and Emotional Well-Being at Higher Educational Institutions.

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