

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-538
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2023

Universalisation of Education

538. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Education Policy 2020 is based on the vision of universalisation of education from pre-school to secondary level and aims to provide quality and equitable education to all;

(b) if so, the present status of implementation and the target year to start the new curriculum and pedagogical structure of education process thereof; and

(c) the proposal of the Government to start unilateral system and one pattern education to ensure common education systems in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): National Education Policy 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 Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education “Samagra Shiksha” 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.

NEP 2020 envisages to reconfigure the curricular and pedagogical structure of school education to make it responsive and relevant to the developmental needs and interests of learners at different stages of their development, corresponding to the age ranges of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years, respectively. The curricular and pedagogical structure and the curricular framework for school education is to be guided by a 5+3+3+4 design, consisting of the Foundational Stage (in two parts, that is, 3 years of Anganwadi/pre-school + 2 years in primary school in Grades 1-2; both together covering ages 3-8), Preparatory Stage (Grades 3-5, covering ages 8-11), Middle Stage (Grades 6-8, covering ages 11-14), and Secondary Stage (Grades 9-12 in two phases, i.e., 9 and 10 in the first and 11 and 12 in the second, covering ages 14-18).

As per para 4.30 of NEP 2020, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) under the Ministry of Education has initiated the process of development of National Curriculum Frameworks (NCF) where in inputs are invited from various stakeholders including various Ministries/Departments, States and UTs drawing from grass root levels. The details on the developments on NCF may be found at the link given: <https://ncf.ncert.gov.in/#/web/home>

The National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCFECCE), called Foundational Stage is one of the four stages of National Curriculum Framework (NCFs). The NCF for Foundational Stage (NCFFS) has been developed by NCERT through an extensive consultative process with States & UTs up to grass root level and various institutions and organisations. It was released by Hon'ble Education Minister on 20th Oct 2022 at New Delhi. Contents and Updates on NCFECCE are available on the given link: <https://ncf.ncert.gov.in/#/web/documents>

As per 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, CAGE, 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. The policy provides different timelines for important themes/sub-sets as well as principles and methodology for its implementation. Accordingly, this Ministry has communicated to all States/UT Governments for taking steps for implementation of NEP 2020 in letter and spirit. Further, 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)'. The major focus of SARTHAQ is to define activities in such a manner which clearly delineate goals, outcomes and timeframe. Details of SARTHAQ are available on the given link: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/SARTHAQ_Part1_updated.pdf

(c) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and NEP 2020 entrusts States to prepare their own curricula based on NCF prepared by NCERT to the extent possible incorporating State flavor and material as needed.
