

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 61
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2019**

New Education Policy

61. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has diluted the recommendation of Kasturirangan contained in the Draft of new educational policy on universal educational right for children between 3 yrs and 18 yrs, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the new schemes of Government to attract more new comers to school;
- (c) the programmes under the Government to improve the teaching skills in primary schools; and
- (d) whether the Government has taken initiatives to ensure the health of children in primary classes and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a): The Committee for the Draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan submitted its report to the Ministry on 31st May 2019.

(b): In 2018-19, the Department of School Education and Literacy launched an Integrated Scheme of Samagra Shiksha which subsumed the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). The new integrated scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. The major interventions are: universal access including infrastructure development and retention; gender and equity; inclusive education; quality; financial support for teacher salary; digital initiatives; entitlements under the right of children to free and compulsory education (RTE) Act, 2009 including uniforms, textbooks etc.; pre-school education; vocational education; sports and physical education; strengthening of teacher education and training; and monitoring of the scheme. Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to reduce dropouts and increase the enrolment at elementary level by opening/upgrading of new schools, construction of school buildings & additional

classrooms, setting up of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV), setting up of residential schools/hostels, free uniforms, free text books and undertaking enrolment & retention drives.

(c) and (d): There is a need to move away from rote learning to competency based learning, improve the numeracy and literacy skills and overall learning outcomes, and promote joyful and experiential learning in an inclusive classroom environment. To ensure safety and security of children in schools and for dealing with issues related to health and well being of the students, the modern day teacher and heads of schools have to be equipped with the requisite skills to handle these issues. These were discussed with States/UTs as well as autonomous organisations. It was recognized that the capacity of teachers must be developed through an integrated training programme with standardized and comprehensive training modules. Accordingly, under Samagra Shiksha, a massive Integrated Teacher Training Programme at the elementary level, covering around 42 lakh participants, including all teachers in the Government elementary schools, Principals and Heads of elementary schools, faculty of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), Block and Cluster Resource Coordinators has been launched. Specific training modules on 'Developing personal-social qualities and creating safe and healthy school environment' and 'Health and Well Being in Schools' have also been developed. The Integrated Programme trains school heads and teachers to act as first level counsellors, so that they are alert and responsive to the needs of the students and the school.
