

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 64
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Agriculture Education at Primary Level under NEP

64 Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to integrate education with rural development and agriculture education in schools at primary level in both rural and urban areas under New Education Policy (NEP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government observes 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 choice for the students under the NEP, 2020; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e) The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 advocates integrating education with rural development and agriculture education, especially at the primary level. The NEP 2020 emphasizes the need for holistic education and practical knowledge, which also encompasses agricultural skills. This integration is aimed at equipping students with practical knowledge of agriculture through project-based learning, both in rural and urban areas. Students learn about what people do in various vocations in rural and urban areas, thereby promoting local empowerment through education. The NEP, 2020 also recommends offering interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary courses in school education including agriculture, etc. Students are provided with flexibility to choose subjects of their interest. The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), 2023 developed by the National

Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) provides comprehensive guidance for the development of curricula to help students make informed decisions about their educational and career paths. The emphasis is on hands-on, experiential learning through activities, such as gardening, farming, and field visits. The curricula and textbooks developed by the NCERT include local crafts, arts, trades, and agriculture, making education more relevant to the local and rural environment and culture at all stages of school education. Training of teachers is being done to help them integrate experiential learning and vocational education into their teaching methods. By introducing agricultural sciences early, the government aims to generate interest and awareness among students about the importance of agriculture, sustainability, and rural development. Activities, like developing a School Kitchen Garden and making a Biodiversity Register have been introduced from Grade 6 onwards to provide agriculture education at an early age. Vocational subjects in agriculture have been introduced in schools from Grades 9 to 12. Schools are encouraged to include subjects related to agriculture, local crafts, and trades in the curriculum.
