GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 104
ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

Scheme to improve Quality of Education

†104   Shri Murari Lal Meena:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:
(a) whether the Government has formulated any special scheme to improve the quality of education in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and its objectives;
(c) whether priority is given to the students of any specific category under the scheme, if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether any budget provision has been made for the scheme; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) and (b): Improving the quality of education across all levels from primary to university level is a continuous and ongoing process. After announcement of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), a number of transformative changes have taken place both in school and higher education. In School Education several initiatives have been taken such as PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) for upgradation of schools; Samagra Shiksha for providing quality education with an inclusive and equitable classroom environment for all children; National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3; Vidya-Pravesh–Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module; PM e-VIDYA to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable coherent multi-mode access to education, DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) as One Nation One Digital Platform having e-Books and e-Contents, launch of National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) and Jadui Pitara for play-based learning teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3 to 8 years; PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development); NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0; Vidya Samiksha Kendra; Integrated Teacher Education Programme; National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST); National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) for creating a unifying national digital infrastructure to energise and catalyse the education ecosystem, implementation of a scheme "New India Literacy Programme or ULLAS" targeting all non-literates age 15 years and above, etc.

In Higher Education, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out such as National Credit Framework (NCrF) and National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) in conjunction with guidelines / regulations like Curriculum and Credit Framework for

Undergraduate Programme; Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Programme offered by Higher Education Institutions; Transforming HEIs into multi-disciplinary Institutions; pursuing two Academic Programme simultaneously; Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR ID) of individual student which will act as lifelong identity to track their educational journey and achievements from, pre-primary to higher education; introduction of PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students inter-alia enabling collateral free, guarantor free loan through a simple, transparent and student-friendly and entirely digital application process; revised regulation of ODL / Online Education; permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform; launch of new SWAYAM Plus portal with aim to enhance skill and upskilling and reskilling of existing manpower employed in different sectors; Integration of technology in administration of HEIs from admission to grant of degree through SAMARTH; guidelines on Professor of Practice to enable HEIs to work with industry experts; guidelines for supernumerary seats for admitting students from abroad in Indian HEIs and permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year; enhanced reputation of the Indian HEIs in international ranking; embedding of Indian Knowledge system in the education etc.

(c): National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It has taken into account the concerns of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which includes female and transgender individuals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and other categories. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school education as well as in higher education.

(d) and (e): 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, Budget allocation from the year 2021-22 to 2024-25 is given below:-

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Budget Allocation (Rs.in Crore)	93,224.31	1,04,277.72	1,12,899.47	1,21,117.77

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