

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2282
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

Introduction of Modules on Scientific Temper and Logical Reasoning in the Education

2282. Dr. Dharamvira Gandhi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to include critical thinking, scientific inquiry and rational discourse in school curriculum at all levels to combat superstition;
- (b) whether any new subjects or modules on scientific temper and logical reasoning are being introduced in the syllabus of Primary and Secondary classes; and
- (c) if so, the details of initiatives taken/being taken by the Government for imparting scientific ideas and critical thinking skills effectively?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As a follow up of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023 has been developed with the aim to promote critical thinking in not only science and Math, but also in Social Sciences. The emphasis on experiential learning aims to promote observation and research-based learning, rooted in scientific method and critical thinking. The new curriculum also aims to expose the students to Indian Knowledge System, which is again based on rationality and application of scientific, evidences-based methodology in understanding the India's rich cultural and scientific heritage. Various teacher training workshops are focused on developing critical thinking and inquiry-based learning techniques. In addition to that, the focus on use of various educational kits, right from the Foundational Stage, is aimed at creating an imprint in the minds of young learners about evidence-based learning and a firm belief in "seeing to believing", rather than just "listening and believing". The National Council of Educational

Research and Training (NCERT) is developing a Teachers' Handbook for Science Education to support the implementation of new science textbooks at the middle school level. The handbook aims to assist teachers in encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving, and inquiry-based learning through hands-on activities. Additionally, capacity-building programs are conducted for Key Resource Persons (KRPs) from various States and Union Territories. These KRPs are responsible for training teachers within their regions, helping them familiarize themselves with the new textbooks and teaching methods outlined in the handbook.
