

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. † 1011
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

Expenditure on Education Sector under NEP

†1011. SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is fulfilling the national target of spending 6% of GDP on the education sector under the National Education Policy (NEP) in collaboration with State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the new projects approved by the Government to promote digital education, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has framed any policy for online education platform for the students; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a global knowledge superpower. NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of leveraging the advantages of technology to ensure accessibility of high quality education to everyone .

To achieve the objectives of NEP 2020 , Government of India has taken several initiatives including consistent increase in budget allocation to Ministry of Education from Rs. 93,224.31 Cr in 2021-22 to Rs. 1,21,118 Cr in 2024-25. Further, as per the “Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education 2019-20 to 2021-22”, BE (Centre and States) on Education in India is 4.12% of GDP in 2021-22.

Government of India provides financial support to State Governments under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)/ Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme under three components namely, “Enhancing Quality and Excellence in select State Universities”, “Infrastructure Grants to Universities” and “Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU)” for improvement in Higher Education.

Ministry of Education also implements the National Mission of Education through ICT. This scheme aims to ensure accessibility of high quality educational content, support for preparation of competitive examinations, digitalisation of educational campuses, virtual labs, online content for research, technical support to use open source platforms etc. Major platforms are SWAYAM, SATHEE, SWAYM plus, FOSSEE, eSS.

SWAYAM is a state-of-the-art digital learning platform which delivers free of cost online courses. It ensures that students have access to high-quality, interactive learning, facilitating equitable and inclusive education. Since inception, the platform has offered more than 14,000 courses, curated and delivered by premier education institutions in the country as IITs and IIMs and has more than 5 crore enrolments. In 2024, 2,557 courses were offered with more than 78 lakh enrolments.

To promote online education, UGC has notified UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020. Subsequently, amendments have been notified on 1st July, 2021, 18th July, 2022 and 2nd May, 2024. UGC has accorded recognition/entitlement to 108 Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer ODL programmes and 99 HEIs to offer online programmes.
