

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3162
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025**

PROPOSAL FOR GRAM DAK SEVAK (GDS) EMPLOYEES

3162. SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to make 3.50 lakh Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) employees of the Indian Postal Department permanent;
- (b) if so, the manner and the time line by which the pending cases for the last 25 years are likely to be resolved;
- (c) whether their salaries and related allowances will be paid;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the level of higher education;
- (e) if so, the manner and the timeline by which it is likely to be achieved; and
- (f) the timeline by which the shortage of staff in educational institutions and colleges is likely to be met?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) to (c) Sir, the recruitment and service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) of the Department of Posts are not governed by Article 309 of the Constitution. At present, there is no proposal to grant them the status of regular employees or to convert their positions into permanent ones.

(d) to (f) The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) announced on 29.07.2020 is the first Education Policy of the 21st century, which aims to address many growing developmental imperatives of our country. The Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education, including Sustainable Development Goal-4 (SDG-4), while building upon India's traditions and value systems.

NEP 2020 envisages increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and access in Higher Education including vocational education, to 50% by 2035 and the Government has taken various measures to increase the GER in Higher Education, which, inter-alia, include Opening of more Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs); introduction and implementation of various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes for providing financial assistance to students; HEIs offering full Open Distance Learning/Online Programmes; Multiple entry and exit options in the Higher Education system; two Academic Programmes simultaneously; anytime, anywhere learning opportunities through

SWAYAM platform; conducting JEE, NEET (UG) and Common University Entrance Test (CUET) Exams in 13 languages, ensuring that students from rural or vernacular backgrounds are better supported.

NEP 2020 provides different timelines as well as principles and methodology for its implementation. Education being in the concurrent list of Constitution, Centre and States are equally responsible for providing quality education to all. Accordingly, Ministry of Education, State Governments, education-related Ministries, the regulatory and implementing bodies of school and higher education such as University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education, National Council of Educational Research and Training, Central Board of Secondary Education, Universities/Colleges/Schools etc. have started taking initiatives for implementation of NEP 2020.
