

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 5010
ANSWERED ON 23/03/2026

Implementation of NEP related to School Instructional Hours

5010. Shri Captain Viriato Fernandes:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the documents, circulars, frameworks and statutory guidelines that State Boards and schools are required to follow for implementing National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, including the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for School-Education (NCFSE);

(b) whether the Government has taken note that Section 4.3 of NCFSE prescribes a working school year of about 34 weeks with approximately 29 instructional hours per week and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether schools in Goa are functioning in excess of these norms and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are any directives mandating State Boards to align with or follow Central Boards in the implementation of NEP 2020 and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any guidelines, timelines or financial support plans have been issued to the State for transitioning from 10+2 system to 5+3+3+4 structure, considering that significant infrastructure and manpower requirements are involved and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): For implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 a number of documents have been developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) from the perspectives of assessment, such as the Holistic Progress Card (HPC), large-scale assessment frameworks, and tools under the Equivalence of Boards initiative, including Question Paper Templates (QPT), Equivalence Questionnaires (EQQ),

and domain-specific indicators covering areas like administration, curriculum, assessment, infrastructure and inclusiveness. These documents function as normative and guiding frameworks, enabling States and Union Territories to align with NEP 2020 while allowing flexibility for contextual adaptation.

Also, in line with national reforms, a National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), has been set up as a standard-setting body under NCERT to fulfil the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards of India.

As a follow up of NEP 2020, NCERT has developed the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 after detailed consultation with the States/UTs and other relevant stakeholders. NCF-SE 2023 is a self-explanatory document. Since education is in the concurrent list, States/UTs have been implementing NCF-SE 2023, taking care of their contexts.

Section 4.3 (point g) of NCF-SE, states that “Given the range of subjects in the different Stages and the reasonable number of hours students can spend in school, a working school year would have around 34 working weeks of around 29 hours of instruction hours every week.”

NCF-SE envisions that the day needs to be carefully organised so that all Developmental Domains receive adequate time and attention. Each activity may be planned keeping in mind the attention span of the child to balance between child-initiated and Teacher-guided activities, group and individual or pair activities, and alternating activities.

As per Para 4.32 of the NEP 2020, States are to prepare their own curricula (which may be based on the NCF-SE prepared by NCERT to the extent possible) and prepare textbooks (which may be based on the NCERT textbook materials to the extent possible), incorporating State flavour and material as needed.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and States & Union Territories including State of Goa have the flexibility to adopt or adapt the recommendations of NEP 2020 in accordance with their specific contextual needs and priorities.

As informed by the State of Goa, the State has mandated that schools (Grades 6 to 12) operate for a minimum of five and a half instructional hours per day, excluding recess. This arrangement is intended to provide adequate time for experiential, interactive, and competency-based learning, as envisaged in the NCF, and to meet the stage-wise study and learning hour requirements prescribed under the National Credit Framework (NCrF).

Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution. Thus, implementation of the NEP 2020 is undertaken collaboratively by the Centre and States, allowing autonomy to State Boards to adopt reforms suited to their local contexts. However, NEP 2020 envisages a national standard-setting role for PARAKH to promote comparability and equivalence of academic standards across all boards, including frameworks for equivalence of boards/formulation of guidelines, tools and Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for granting equivalence to Grade 10 and Grade 12 certificates.

NEP 2020 envisages modification of the extant 10+2 structure in school education with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18. Accordingly, the curricular and pedagogical structure and the curricular framework for school education is to be guided by a 5+3+3+4 design, consisting of the Foundational Stage (3 years of Anganwadi/preschool + 2 years in primary school in Grades 1-2; both together covering ages 3-8), Preparatory Stage (Grades 3-5, covering ages 8-11), Middle Stage (Grades 6-8, covering ages 11-14), and Secondary Stage (Grades 9-12 in two phases, i.e., 9 and 10 in the first and 11 and 12 in the second, covering ages 14-18). In view of the provisions of NEP 2020 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, this Department has advised/requested the States and UTs to bring uniformity in age of admission throughout the country in a phased manner.

NEP 2020 provides different timelines as well as principles and methodology for its implementation. It also envisions operationalization of the entire policy in the decade of 2030-40, following which another comprehensive review will be undertaken.

Under the integrated centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, annual plans are prepared by the respective States and UTs, including infrastructure and manpower requirements for implementation of NEP 2020, and this is reflected in their Annual Work Plan & Budget Proposals. These proposals are appraised and approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Ministry in consultation with the respective State/UT government and funds are released as per the norms of the Scheme and fund sharing pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance.
