

Sl. No.	State	No. of Educationally Backward Blocks
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Nagaland	11
20.	Odisha	173
21.	Punjab	21
22.	Rajasthan	186
23.	Tamil Nadu	44
24.	Telangana	389
25.	Tripura	9
26.	Uttar Pradesh	702
27.	Uttarakhand	23
28.	West Bengal	87
GRAND TOTAL		3479

Formulation of National Education Policy

322. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating National Education Policy and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken to persuade girls to study technical courses;

(c) the steps taken to strengthen elementary and primary education in Government schools at par with established private schools; and

(d) the details of achievements through the existing policies?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has initiated the process of formulating a New Education Policy (NEP). The online consultation process has been launched and suggestions are being invited on *MyGov.in* portal. The grassroots level consultation from the Gram Panchayat level through the Block and District to State level and also multi-stakeholder regional and national level consultations is to commence shortly.

NEP is expected to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry.

(b) Besides following equal opportunity principle in all the old and new technical and professional education institutions, special provisions have been made for improving girls participation in technical education. Girls now constitute 10.55% of the total enrolment in Engineering/Technical Education institutions. AICTE has special concessions in the regulations for setting up of new women technical institutions which include relaxations in the norms for land availability, concession in processing fees, deposits etc. Womens Hostel Scheme in polytechnics is also being implemented. UDAAN is an initiative of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to enable disadvantaged girl students and other students from SC/ST and minorities to transit from school to post-school professional education specially in Science and Math. PRAGATI (Providing Assistance for Girls' Advancement in Technical Education Initiative) is an AICTE scheme which envisages selection of one girl per family where family income is less than 6 lakhs/annum on merit at the qualifying examination to pursue technical education.

(c) For strengthening elementary and primary education in Government schools, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented throughout the country so that the Government schools will have improved school infrastructure as well as quality of teaching and learning, which will be on par with private schools. Under SSA, grant up to 50 lakh is available to each district for strengthening computer aided learning in schools to support enhancement of children's learning. The States have been instructed to take necessary steps to provide educational facilities in all the Government schools as per the RTE norms.

(d) India has made considerable progress in terms of expansion of educational facilities at all levels of education. Near universal access and enrolment at the elementary level is significant achievement, due to vigorous policy initiatives such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV). At the secondary and higher education levels, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyana (RMSA) and Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) are being implemented to improve the access, equity and quality of education. Consequently, there has been significant improvement in all these aspects.