

- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard till date; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has several schemes for scholarships and fellowships for students including SC and ST students in universities including private universities. The list of such schemes is available on UGC website www.ugc.in. In addition, there is a Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSISS) on loans to students for economically weaker sections including SC and ST community, under which full interest subsidy is provided during the period of moratorium.

Status of New Education Policy

1354. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of New Education Policy at present;
- (b) by when it would be implemented all over India; and
- (c) what are the specialities of the Policy to meet present day challenges of education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Government is in the process of framing a New Education Policy (NEP), which will cover comprehensively various aspects of School and Higher Education and for which it carried out nearly a year-long consultation process through online from citizens, grassroots through States and offline thematic deliberations across 33 identified themes. The thematic discussions were conducted both by the Ministry and also by the apex level institutions, like University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education, National Council for Educational Research and Training, several Centrally funded universities and institutions, autonomous bodies, attached offices inviting all relevant stakeholders, including experts, academics, industry representatives, civil society etc.

The Government of India has constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy, which is mandated to examine the outcome documents, recommendations and suggestions received and formulate a draft National Education Policy as well as a Framework for Action (FFA). All the suggestions received from multiple stakeholders have been forwarded to the Committee, which is yet to submit the Draft Report.