

(b) if so, whether there would be creation of new and separate agencies for each State; and

(c) if not, why is there no impetus of States to create such agencies for themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) The Government has approved the proposal for setting up the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) for financing creation of required infrastructure and for promotion of research facilities in the Centrally aided institutions of higher learning not for State funded institutions.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Kindergarten classes in Government schools

1826. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to introduce Kindergarten classes in Government schools under New Education Policy (NEP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) The Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy (NEP), for which it carried out a highly participative, inclusive and multi-pronged consultation process, through online, grassroots and thematic expert consultations across 33 identified themes. The Ministry had constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy which submitted its report in May, 2016. Thereafter the Ministry has formulated 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy (NEP), 2016', wherein it has been stated: "A programme for pre-school education for children in the age group of 4 to 5 years will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Child Development..... Further, in due course, all primary schools will cover pre-primary education."

Comments/suggestions were invited on 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016' from the Government of India Ministries, State Governments, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other stakeholders up to 30th September, 2016 and several suggestions have been received from various stakeholders. An 'Education Dialogue' was also organized with the Hon'ble MPs to discuss the suggestions and to elicit their views. A Committee under an eminent educationist will be appointed to prepare final draft NEP.