

(c) and (d) Since award of tender to private contractors was finalized by CPWD and NBCC, IIT Delhi is not aware of any collusion in this regard.

Sports as subject in New Education Policy

3243. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted for evolution of the New Education Policy has noted the views and suggestions received on various themes identified;

(b) what has been the Committee's observations on the suggestions received to introduce sports as a graded subject in schools; and

(c) what is the time-frame that the committee is looking at for putting in place the New Education Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) Yes Sir, the Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy (NEP), for which it carried out year-long consultation process on the identified 33 themes, across both school and higher education, through online on MyGov platform; grass-root starting from Village to Block, District, State and Zonal levels on <https://survey.mygov.in>; and thematic consultations with experts and autonomous bodies, such as UGC, AICTE, NCERT, NCTE, AIU, and other centrally funded institutions. Meetings were also held with Government of India Ministries and State Governments. All the suggestions received from multiple stakeholders were forwarded to the Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy, which examined the large body of outcome documents, recommendations and suggestions received from the various consultations and submitted its report in May, 2016.

(b) and (c) One of the themes under School Education is '*Comprehensive Education - Ethics, Physical Education, Arts and Crafts, Life Skills*'. In its Report it reads as follows: "*The Committee, during its field visits and in discussions with local authorities and school management observed that in general, inadequate stress is given to this aspect of schooling. The Committee also observed that many private schools, both in urban and rural areas, frequently had no provision whatever for such facilities. The importance of physical development of children is not given the attention it vitally needs. School authorities in states need to bring renewed focus on this aspect. It is time to make a specific, non-divertible budget for sports facilities in government schools, as also in private schools.*"

After perusal of the report of the Committee and the recommendations from various consultations as well as other views and comments received, 'Some Inputs for the Draft

National Education Policy, 2016' was formulated, wherein it has been stated that physical education, yoga, games and sports, NCC, NSS, art education, Bal Sansad, covering local art, craft, literature and skills, and other co-scholastic activities will be made an integral part of the curriculum and daily routine in schools for the holistic development of children.

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. A Committee under an eminent educationist will be appointed to prepare final draft NEP. The process of finalizing the New Education Policy is likely to take some more time.

Politicization of Indian Universities

3244. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the increased politicization of Indian Universities; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to grant more autonomy to Indian Universities and ban interference of political organizations in universities, if so, 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 Universities are autonomous institutions established either under Central Act, Provincial Act or State Act and are governed by their respective Acts/Statutes/Ordinances made thereunder. The Central Government does not interfere in the day-to-day functioning of Universities. Universities, being autonomous bodies, are competent to take decisions on their own on administrative and academic matters.

Gas subsidy for mid-day meal

†3245. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas subsidy for mid-day meal in the schools is not being provided due to stoppage of gas subsidy in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether State Governments are providing financial aids to schools due to stoppage of gas subsidy, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would reimburse the assistance being given to schools for mid-day meal, if so, by when if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.