

universities have been approved and an amount of ₹ 4.2 crores was released for the purpose. Under the scheme “Establishment of Centres for Endangered Languages in Central Universities”, nine Central Universities have been approved and an amount of ₹ 16.85 crores released to eight of these Universities.

Development of life skills and attitude in students

2012. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the existing education system does not provide for development of life skills and attitudes in students and is only concerned with high percentage of marks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to tackle this issue; and

(d) the suggestions of the public, NGOs and experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The education system is guided by the National Policy on Education while providing for development of life skills. The National Policy on Education (NPE) emphasised the need for giving life skills through introduction of systematic, well planned and rigorously implemented programmes of vocational education in the proposed educational reorganisation. These elements are meant to develop a healthy attitude amongst students towards work and life, to enhance individual employability, to reduce the mismatch between the demand and supply of skilled manpower, and to provide an alternative for those intending to pursue higher education without particular interest or purpose. The NPE1986 stated that efforts will be made to devise vocational courses based on Agriculture, Marketing, Social Services, etc. Further, an emphasis in vocational education will also be on development of attitudes, knowledge, and skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment. Efforts were made for implementing the same in the educational system with varying degrees of success.

(c) and (d) Currently, the Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy 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. Initially, a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy was constituted which submitted its report in May, 2016 and thereafter, the Ministry prepared 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016'. Both these reports have been treated as inputs for policy formulation. The exercise of preparing a New Education Policy is still ongoing as the Government has recently constituted a Committee for preparation of the Draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan. The Committee is interacting with various stakeholders and examining the suggestions and inputs received from various stakeholders including the government, public, NGOs and autonomous bodies. The Committee is expected to submit its report soon.

National Policy on Education

2013. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the National Policy on Education accords priority for improvement of standards of education at all levels for children living in rural and urban areas;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to provide equitable access to quality education to all sections of the society. The extant National Policy on Education (NPE) provides for a National System of Education which implies that, up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curriculum framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education.

The Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy for which *wide* ranging consultations were undertaken at multiple levels of online, expert/thematic and grassroots from village to State, Zonal levels as well as at the National level. Initially, a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy was constituted which submitted its report in May, 2016 and thereafter, the Ministry prepared 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016'. Both these documents are treated as inputs for policy formulation. Suggestions and inputs have been received from various stakeholders such as, individuals, organisations, autonomous bodies, Hon'ble MPs, GoI Ministries and State Governments on various aspects of