

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Draft National Education Policy, 2019 (Draft NEP 2019) submitted by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan has been uploaded on MHRD's website and also at *innovate.mygov.in* platform to elicit suggestions/comments from all stakeholders.

(c) and (d) As per the Draft NEP, 2019 submitted by the Committee, Paragraph P16.8.2 of Chapter 16 proposes that *'The first year or two of the MBBS course will be designed as a common period for all science graduates after which they can take up MBBS, BDS, Nursing or other specialisations. Common foundational courses based on medical pluralism will be followed by core courses focused on specific systems, and electives that encourage bridging across systems. Graduates from other medical disciplines such as nursing, dental etc., will also be allowed lateral entry into the MBBS course. A medical education qualification framework to achieve this will be developed in conjunction with the NMC'*.

Draft NEP 2019 under its Para 16.8.3 also proposes that *'Just as the NEET has been introduced as a common entrance examination for the MBBS, a common exit examination for the MBBS will be introduced (as has been suggested in the National Medical Commission Bill) that will play a dual role as also the entrance examination for admission into post graduate programmes. This exit examination will be administered at the end of the fourth year of the MBBS so that students are relieved of the burden of studying for a separate, competitive entrance examinations at the end of their residency period. With the entrance examination out of the way, they can spend their residency period acquiring valuable skills and competence. Similar common exit examinations can also be conducted for dental education and other disciplines as needed'*.

At this stage, suggestions/comments have been invited from various stakeholders including the public, Government of India Ministries and State Governments. The Government will finalize the National Education Policy only after considering the inputs/suggestions and comments of all stakeholders.

Provision of food upto class XII under MDMS

†688. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering to provide food to children upto class XII under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS);
- (b) if so, by when the Ministry is considering to implement it; and
- (c) the details of suggestions of States for expansion of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013, children upto class VIII or within the age group of 6-14 years are entitled to one mid-day meal free of charge, every day except on school holidays, in all schools run by local bodies, Government and Government aided schools so as to meet nutritional standards specified in the Act. However, State Governments can extend the Mid-Day Meal programme beyond class VIII also. The State Government of Telangana is providing mid-day meal to children of classes IX -X and the State Governments of Karnataka in some schools and Andhra Pradesh as well as UT Administrations of Puducherry and Lakshadweep are providing mid-day meal to children of classes upto XII, from their own resources.

Vacant teachers posts in Central Universities

†689. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) the number of posts of teachers vacant in the Central Universities of the country and the details of steps being taken to fill them up through regular appointments during the last three years;
- (b) the details of vacant posts of general, OBC, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories, post-wise and category-wise; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in filling up the vacant posts of teachers and whether education is getting affected due to vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) At present, there are 41 Central Universities under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The total number of

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