

on the effect of demonetisation. He had predicted a drop of one to two per cent in GDP growth. If you see, Sir, 2016-17, quarter to quarter, 9.4 per cent GDP has come down to 5 per cent. In the second quarter, it has declined from 8.9 per cent to 4.5 per cent. The declining trend is for six quarters. In 2018-19, it is sliding from 8 to 7 to 6.6 to 5.8 per cent; in 2019-20, it is sliding from 5 to 4.5 per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as predicted by Dr. Manmohan Singh, whether the main cause for the decline in the economy is on account of demonetisation.

SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH: No, Sir.

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Sir, the Government is going to review foreign trade agreements because, a decade ago, the foreign trade agreements were entered into saying that when you imported it was zero duty and when you exported, those countries applied 5 per cent to 20 per cent duty. If you are not going to review these foreign trade agreements, the GDP is not at all going to improve. Is there any chance of reviewing these agreements?

SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, I would pass on these suggestions to the Ministry that deals with these foreign trade agreements.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA): Question Nos. 258 and 259 are of the same type. So, we may club these together. First, Dr. Sasmit Patra, please.

#### **Objections of stakeholders on draft New Education Policy, 2019**

\*258.DR. SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the major objections that have been received from various stakeholders regarding the draft New Education Policy, 2019;

(b) whether these objections have been taken seriously and changes have been incorporated in the Policy;

(c) if so, the changes that have been undertaken in the Policy due to the objections mentioned above; and

(d) the total expenditure (capital and recurring) needed to operationalise the draft New Education Policy, 2019?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) to (c) The Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy for which it carried out a highly participative, inclusive and multi-pronged consultation process, through online, grassroots and thematic expert consultations. The Committee for the Draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan submitted its report to the Ministry on 31st May 2019. The Draft NEP 2019 which was uploaded on the Ministry's website and also at *innovate.mygov.in* platform has received a large number of suggestions/comments from all stakeholders including Government of India Ministries and State Governments. Currently, the Ministry is in the process of finalising the National Education Policy, 2019 based on the Draft NEP report submitted by the Committee to Draft NEP, and the stakeholder feedback thereon.

(d) The requirement of funds would be estimated after finalisation of the Policy. Government is committed to implement the Policy by making suitable budgetary allocations.

**Financial expenditure of educational reforms**

\*259. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring educational reforms in the country;

(b) whether these reforms would involve financial expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details of financial expenditure involved?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) to (c) The Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy for meeting the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard