

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1130
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2021

National Education Policy 2020

1130. Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mentions about any specific relief to the poor, women and caste and religious minorities, any clear commitment that can hold the Government accountable, Right to Education Act (RTE) and universalization of education and mechanism to link primary and secondary education with the RTE;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there is any policy directive affirming the rights/reservation of SCs, STs & OBCs in academic institutions- for students or teachers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (c): National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education to all groups of the society including the poor, women and caste and religious minorities. The policy has proposed for emphasis to be given to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). The NEP 2020 also reaffirms to bridge the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in both school and higher education. Moreover, the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 provides for setting up a Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF) for girls and transgender students to build the nation's capacity to provide equitable quality education for all girls as well as transgender students.

The Ministry of Education has adopted a multi-pronged approach for the socio-economic development of poor, women, SC, ST and religious minorities groups by taking various initiatives:

social empowerment through educational development; economic empowerment through employment enhancing avenues like skill development; protection through effective implementation of protective legislations. These initiatives are :

1. The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 which was further amended in 2012.
2. The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019.

Besides above, for advancement of Economically Weaker Sections of the society, and as per the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act 2019, Government has issued orders providing 10 percent reservation to EWS categories in admission to educational institutions. This reservation for EWS categories would be provided without disturbing the existing entitlements for SC/ST and OBC categories.
