

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1944

TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th December, 2021

RATIFICATION OF UNESCO CONVENTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

1944 Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has not ratified the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in Education even after 60 years despite it being ratified by 106 States/Countries and that India continues to encounter challenges with equity and discrimination in education settings;
- (b) the reasons why India has not ratified the Convention;
- (c) whether Government is planning to ratify the Convention in the future; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d): The Government of India has taken many steps to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Education has been recognized as a Fundamental Right under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The Act provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. India has adopted the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 4 of this Agenda seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Provision has been made for reservation of seats for SC / ST/ OBC/ EWS/ Divyangjan in educational institutions. The National Education Policy launched in 2020 is built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability and is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
