

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3861  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022

**Initiatives for dealing with diverse mental wellness needs of students**

3861 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that authorities governing schools must recognize and respond to the diverse mental wellness needs of the students, accommodating both different styles/rates of learning and different states of mental health they are in;
- (b) if so, what initiatives are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): The guiding principles of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, *inter-alia*, include (i) recognizing, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each student, by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres; (ii) flexibility, so that each learner have the ability to choose their learning trajectories and programmes, and thereby choose their own paths in life according to their talents and interests; and (iii) respect for diversity and respect for the local content in all curriculum, pedagogy and policy, always keeping in mind that education is a concurrent subject. NEP, 2020 provides for preparation of a holistic, 360-degree, multidimensional report (holistic progress card) of all students that reflects in great detail the progress as well as the uniqueness of each learner in the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains. NEP, 2020 also proposes that teachers will be given more autonomy in choosing aspects of pedagogy, so that they may teach in the manner they find most effective for the students in their classrooms. Teachers will also focus on

socio-emotional learning – a critical aspect of any student’s holistic development. Moreover, physical and mental health concerns have been addressed by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, which emphasizes on well-trained social workers, counsellors, and community involvement in the school system. As per the perspectives of the NEP 2020, the National Council of Educational Research and Training has initiated the development of four National Curriculum Frameworks, viz, in the area of School Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Teacher Education and Adult Education. With a view to provide inputs to these curriculum frameworks, 25 National Focus Groups have been constituted for 25 Focus Areas which include ‘Health and well-being, yoga, sports and fitness’ and ‘Guidance and Counselling’ cover the social, emotional and mental health.

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