

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1641
ANSWERED ON- 21/12/2022

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM IN NEW NEP

1641. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has made any efforts to imbibe Indian knowledge system in New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of efforts made for promoting lok Vidya and traditional arts as a part of the curriculum;
- (c) whether Government is planning to make local languages as medium of instruction, if so, efforts made for its early implementation; and
- (d) the details of efforts being made to ensure availability of Indian languages faculty in the educational institutions which are inadequate in number?

ANSWER

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

- (a) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the importance of the Indian knowledge System (IKS) and its inclusion in the education system. IKS includes “Knowledge of India” from ancient India and its contributions to modern India and its successes and challenges, and a clear sense of India’s future aspirations with regard to education, health, environment, etc.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has established an Indian Knowledge System Division in 2020, with a vision to promote interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research on all aspects of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), preserve and disseminate IKS knowledge for further research and societal applications. Under this division, 25 IKS Centres have been established in the country, 3000 Internships have been given, 64 research proposals on IKS theme have been funded, etc.

- (b) “Lok Vidya” is a very important vocational knowledge developed in India. NEP 2020 has recommended this to be made accessible to students through integration into vocational education courses. Towards integration of vocational education with the formal education, draft National Credit Framework (NCF) has already been published, in order to ensure that there is seamless mobility between students of vocational streams and formal education and that students are exposed to vocational streams, including “Lok Vidya”.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing a flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to impart short duration skill development training to youth of the country including artisans and craftsmen. Under PMKVY, training has been imparted in various job roles of 37 different sectors, including job roles of traditional arts and crafts under Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC).

MoE in collaboration with Ministry of Culture has also introduced KALASHALA initiative in schools to promote & support local arts. The aim of this initiative is to educate school children about the various art forms of India and help them to discover the rich cultural heritage of India.

- (c) and (d) As envisaged in Para 4.11 of NEP 2020, wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, is to be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language.

In this regard, following steps have been taken by Ministry of Education:

- i. National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for Holistic Advancement - NISHTHA 3.0 has been launched to train the teachers from Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) to grade V. It has 12 training modules including a module on Multilingual teaching in foundational years, which also covers usage of mother tongue / home language in teaching.
- ii. National digital learning platform for school education, DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) and National Digital Library of India (NDLI) have content for digital learning available across major Indian languages.
- iii. To provide the engineering course material in Indian Languages, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced “AICTE Technical Book Writing and Translation” in 12 scheduled Indian languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Kannada, Punjabi, Odia, Assamese, Urdu and Malayalam.
- iv. For the translation, AICTE has also developed a tool called ‘AICTE Translation Automation Artificial Intelligence Tool’ to translate English Language online courses into different languages.
- v. National Testing Agency (NTA), an autonomous testing organization under MoE, offers many Tests/Exams in 13 Indian languages.
