

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 490
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024**

Private-Philanthropy partnership

490 # **Ms. Kavita Patidar:**
Shri Pabitra Margherita:

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

- (a) the details of steps implemented to safeguard against the "Private-Philanthropy partnership", as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), from resulting in complete corporate dominance of both school and higher education; and
- (b) whether Government reconsidered NEP-2020 to enhance education accessibility for socially and economically disadvantaged sections?

ANSWER

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

(a) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 inter-alia provides that public and private schools are to be assessed and accredited on the same criteria, benchmarks, and processes, emphasizing online and offline public disclosure and transparency. All education institutions will be held to similar standards of audit and disclosure as a 'not for profit' entity. Surplus, if any, will be reinvested in the educational sector. Similarly, in higher education, all HEIs - public and private - shall be treated at par observing common guidelines. Multiple mechanisms with checks and balances will combat and stop the commercialization of higher education.

The matter relating to fees and its components in schools are regulated in terms of Rules and Instructions of the State Government concerned. So far as schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are concerned, Rule 7.6 of Affiliation Bye-Laws, 2018 states that the acts and regulations of the Central and State/UT Governments enacted/framed in connection with regulation of fee in respect of the various categories of the schools situated in the State are applicable to the school affiliated with CBSE.

The Universities are autonomous bodies which are governed by their respective Acts / Statutes etc. Based on the type of universities, the criteria for fee structure are administered. In respect of IITs/IIITs/NITs/IIEST/IIMs etc, the fee structure is regulated as per the provisions of the respective Acts/Statutes.

(b): National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. It has taken into account the concerns of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which includes female and transgender individuals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and other categories.

This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school education.

Under Samagra Shiksha scheme, bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives. The Scheme reaches out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, Minority communities and transgender. Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) to be set up in Educationally Backward Blocks. The objective behind establishing KGBVs is to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools and to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education. The Scheme also covers Children with Special Needs (CwSN) from pre-primary to senior secondary level across the country. In keeping with the principle of inclusion, CWSN are provided support through specific student oriented interventions i.e. aids and appliances, teaching aids, assistive devices, identification and assessment camps, teaching and learning materials, orientation program for the parents, education administrators, community, sports events, world disability day, braille books/kits, corrective surgeries, transportation allowances, escort allowances, uniforms (under RTE), stipend for girls, training of general teachers, financial assistance for special educators, use of ICT etc.

Government has been taking various initiatives for making higher education accessible to the socially and economically marginalised sections such as scholarships / fellowships offered to SC/ST students; 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section; reservation for SC/ST/OBC; preparatory classes for SC/STs for appearing in JEE exam; JEE exam being conducted in local / regional languages etc.

In IITs and NITs SC/ST/PWD students get complete fee waiver and most economically backward students (whose family income is less than Rs. 1 lakhs per annum) shall get full remission of fee. The other economically backward students (whose family income is between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs per annum) shall get remission of 2/3rd of fee. All students have access to interest free loan for total portion of tuition fee payable.

The Government has mandated all Centrally Funded Institutions to comply with the statutory provisions of the Central Education Institutes (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, as amended from time to time, for admission of reserved category candidates to various programmes.

‘Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities’ have been issued by UGC to develop an inclusive mechanism to provide an accessible environment for persons with disabilities including persons with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs).

UGC has also issued guidelines to provide Equitable Opportunity for the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in HEIs with objective inter alia for Improving equitable access to quality education for SEDGs; Extending and ensuring basic facilities and amenities to SEDGs for inclusive, healthy, safe, and secure environments on campuses; and Setting up SEDGs Cell for the purpose of sensitization of all stakeholders etc.
