

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4414
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011
FACILITIES TO MINORITIES
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is committed to giving access, equipment and quality education to students in the country including SC/ST/OBC and other minority sections;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b) & (c): National Policy on Education (NPE)-1986 (as modified in 1992) gives special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunity by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far.

To promote primary and secondary education various schemes/programmes like Early Childhood Education (ECE), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education, Scheme for Setting up of 6000 Model Schools at Block Level as benchmark of excellences, Madarsa Education and Saakshar Bharat have been launched.

The Government has also taken several initiatives to increase access to higher and technical education, which include setting up of new higher educational institutes, Sub-mission on Polytechnics, National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Scholarship for college and university students, setting up of women hostels in polytechnics, scheme of interest subsidy on education loan, setting up of 374 Model Degree colleges in districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio lower than national average and multiple shifts have also been allowed in engineering institutions and polytechnics.

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) aims to upscale and support ongoing efforts in improving quality of technical education and enhancing existing capacities of the institutions to become dynamic, demand-driven, quality conscious, efficient and forward looking, responsive to rapid economic and technological developments occurring both at national and international levels.

University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes such as, Remedial Coaching at UG/PG level for SC/ST students, Coaching Classes for SC/ST candidates for preparation for National Eligibility Test (NET), Post- Graduate Scholarships for Students belonging to SCs/STs/ Minorities, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SC/ST, Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for providing scholarships to SC/ST students to pursue programmes in higher education. UGC has also issued guidelines to Universities and Colleges for implementation of reservation policy of Government of India.

In addition, various scholarship schemes for SC/ST students like Post Matric Scholarship, Top Class Education Scholarship and National Overseas Scholarship Scheme are also implemented by the Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs. Ministry of Minority Affairs also implement schemes like Merit-cum-Means Scholarship, Pre & Post Matric Scholarship and Free Coaching and Allied Schemes for minority community students.