

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4304
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
FORMULATION OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the average gross enrolment rate in higher education in India is very low in comparison to world average;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the present national education policy is unable to bring improvement/reform in higher education sector;
- (d) if so, whether the formulation of any new policy is under consideration and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any proposal from Madhya Pradesh in this regard is pending with the Government; and
- (f) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on the said proposal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of population in the age group of 18-23 years has increased from 13.7% in 2008-09 to 18.8 % (provisional) in 2010-11, as compared to estimated world average of 29% during the year 2009-10 as per the Global Education Digest (2012) published by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

(c) & (d): The Government follows the National Policy on Education 1986 (as modified in 1992), which provides for a National System of Education implying that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. The National System of Education envisages a common educational structure. The 10+2+3 structure has now been accepted in most parts of the country.

The National System of Education is based on a national curriculum framework, which contains a common core along with other components that are flexible. The common core includes the history of freedom movement, the constitutional obligations and other content essential to nurture national identity. These elements cut across subject areas and are designed to promote values such as India's common cultural heritage, egalitarianism, democracy and secularism, equality of the sexes, protection of the environment, removal of social barriers, and observance of the small family norm and inculcation of the scientific temper. The NCERT has brought out the National Curriculum Framework-2005 through a process of wide-ranging consultations and deliberations across the country. The salient features of the National Curriculum Framework -2005 formulated through such deliberations and approved by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) are grounded on the following five guiding principles.

- i Connecting knowledge to life outside the school,
- ii Ensuring that learning is shifted away from rote methods,
- iii Enriching the curriculum to provide for overall development of children rather than remain textbook centric,
- iv Making examinations more flexible and integrated into classroom life and,
- v Nurturing an overriding identity informed by caring concerns within the democratic polity of the country.

In order to meet the challenges taking place in the educational system, the Government proposes to set up an Education Commission to make recommendations for improvement at all levels of education.

(e) & (f): There is no specific proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh vis-à-vis the formulation of a New Education Policy.