

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

FACILITIES FOR FORWARD AND BACKWARD COMMUNITIESNew Delhi, March 03rd, 2016

The Ministry of Human Resource Development receives suggestions from different stake holders from time to time on various issues including reviewing the existing facilities provided to all categories of students of the country. Last year, the government also initiated a collaborative, multi-stakeholder and multipronged consultation process for a New Education policy (NEP). Six Zonal meetings were held by the Minister of Human Resource Development which was attended by Education ministers and officials of the States/UTs. Ministry also held thematic consultations through apex level institutions and regulators, such as, University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Association of Indian Universities (AIU), National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA), National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), National University of Educational Planning & Administration (NUEPA), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Central Universities and invited relevant stakeholders including experts, academicians, industry representatives, civil society, etc. On 33 themes of NEP, inputs and suggestions were invited covering a spectrum of issues and challenges in education relating to access, quality, inclusive education, bridging gender, social and regional disparities, skill development, employability, etc. At the grassroots level, consultation covered gram panchayat, blocks, urban local bodies, districts and States/Union Territories and suggestions have been uploaded on www.MyGov.in.

The suggestions and inputs received during the consultation process would be relevant to the aspects of facilities for students from all sections of the society, including forward Communities/ Backwards Communities (FCs/BCs).

The Government has constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy and the suggestions received from all these multiple discussions have been sent to the Committee, which is expected to examine the outcome documents, recommendations and suggestions received and formulate a draft National Education Policy as well as a Framework for Action (FFA).

This information was given by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani today in a written reply to a Rajya Sabha question.

GG/RT/DS/RK/COMMUNITIES