

## **Address by the Union HRD Minister for the Special Meeting of CABE**

**21<sup>st</sup> September, 2019 at New Delhi**

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I have immense pleasure in welcoming you all to the Special Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) convened to discuss the Draft National Education Policy, 2019.

The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest advisory body to advise the Central and State Governments in the field of education, was first established in 1920. CABE has provided a forum for widespread consultation and examination of issues relating to educational and cultural development. CABE has an important role to play at the present times, particularly in view of the significant socio-economic and socio-cultural developments taking place in the country as also the wide ranging reforms taking place in the education sector. It is, therefore, desirable that the Central and State Governments, educationists and people representing different interests should evolve a participative process of decision making in education which enhances the federal structure of our polity.

I have always maintained that education is a national agenda which touches the lives of each and every individual. In a country as diverse and as large as ours, the task of developing national policies, while at the same time respecting and incorporating regional aspirations and an inclusive agenda of growth, is indeed challenging. It is in this context that I have always emphasized on a participatory approach in which all of us, be it Central Government or State Governments, academics, autonomous institutions, private sector and all other stakeholders, work together towards a common goal which is empowering the children and youth of India through education.

Education being a Concurrent subject, we fully appreciate the critical role of State governments both in policy formulation and effective implementation of them. Hence, in keeping with the spirit of cooperative federalism, consultations and continuous dialogue with the States becomes essential.

The extant National Policy on Education, 1986 modified in 1992 required changes to meet the contemporary and futuristic needs of our large youth population. Thus, this policy is being brought out after more than three decades. The Government recognized the need for a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge

and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. Accordingly, the Government of India had initiated the process of formulating a National Education Policy in 2015. Consultation process was three pronged: Online consultations; Consultation from village/ grassroots level up to State level, and Thematic Consultations including Zonal and National level Consultations. Six Zonal Meetings were also held by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in Eastern, Central, North-Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Zones covering all States and UTs. The 'Committee for the Draft National Education Policy' under the Chairmanship of eminent scientist Padma Vibhushan, Dr. K. Kasturirangan has submitted the Draft National Education Policy 2019 on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019. The Draft NEP 2019 has been uploaded on MHRD's website and also at [innovate.mygov.in](http://innovate.mygov.in) platform to elicit suggestions/comments from all stakeholders. The DNEP was widely publicized and around 2 lakh suggestions were received. Discussions were held with MPs from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Kerala and Puducherry as well as with State Education Secretaries. The Draft National Education Policy 2019 (Draft NEP 2019) is built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Accountability & Affordability. It aims towards an education system built on the premises of quality and equity *inter alia* for building an equitable, just and human society. Several reforms measures have been proposed in the Draft NEP 2019 so that all students have equitable access to quality education across the country.

I request each one of you to express your views and pro-actively engage in the deliberations as the new education policy concerns the future of the children and youth of our country. With these words, I wish the proceedings all success and eagerly look forward to having a very engaging discussion.

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