

New education policy to be presented after state polls

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NEW DELHI: The draft report on New Education Policy (NEP) by a government appointed panel headed by former Isro chief K Kasturirangan is "ready" but the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry can't present it because of the model code of conduct ahead of elections in five states in November and early December, the ministry said in an order.

The order, a copy of which has been seen by HT extends the tenure of the committee to December 15. Results of the elections will be announced on 11 December.

The Kasturirangan panel, has already had four extensions. It's

term was to end on 31 October, the date on which it was expected to submit its report. NEP, a much-needed upgrade of the education system, was one of the campaign promises of the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

The national policy on education was framed in 1986 and modified in 1992. The new policy is expected to lay down the contours of the way education is disseminated in the country from the most basic to the higher levels.

"The committee report is likely to be received around December 15 when the model code of conduct has been lifted," confirmed a HRD ministry official who asked not to be identified. Apart from Kasturirangan,

the panel consists of Fields Medal winning mathematician Manjul Bhargava, Vice-Chancellor of Tribal University, Amarkantak, TV Kattamani, and leading academicians such as Vasudha Kamat, Mazhar Asif, KM Tripathy and MK Shridhar.

Significantly, this was the second panel formed by the current government to draft the policy. The first, headed by former cabinet secretary T SR Subramanian, was constituted when Smriti Irani was the Union HRD minister. The Subramanian committee submitted its recommendations in 2016. The government then chose to form another panel headed by Kasturirangan and said this would use the report of the earlier panel as an input.