

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3044
ANSWERED ON 20th MARCH, 2023**

**ADMISSION IN SCHOOLS AT VERY YOUNG AGE/ MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION IN
CLASS I IN THE COUNTRY**

**3044. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:
DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that in most of the States and UTs in the country children are admitted in schools/educational institutions at very young age thereby compromising their psychological and mental health;
- (b) whether the Government has carried out any assessment in this regard;
- (c) whether it is fact that there is a very early initiation of toddlers in play schools and other educational institutions in the various States/UTs in the country, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise especially in Punjab;
- (d) whether the admission age for class I varies from State to State;
- (e) whether the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has suggested minimum age for admission for class I as 6 years;
- (f) whether the Government has issued any directions to all the States and UTs to fix the minimum age for admission in Class I as 6 years;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the response/ action taken by the States and UTs in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor and also the details of the States that have implemented the same so far;
- (h) whether any State has requested for extension of time for implementation of the same, if so, the details thereof;
- (i) whether the Government has any proposal to close/shut down the Pre-KG/Pre-LKG/Nursery Classes in schools across the country to implement its order strictly; and
- (j) whether the Government will take corrective steps to clear the concept of anomaly and lack of clarity in the admission process in all the schools including private/aided schools across the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (j): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education for children of the age 6-14 years for classes I to VIII. Education is in concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools in the country are under the administrative control of the State Governments and UT Administrations and States have their own State Education Acts/Regulations to run the schools coming under their jurisdiction. The States/UTs have prescribed different age criteria for admission in various classes in schools as per their norms. Due to anomaly in age criteria prescribed for admission in various classes in schools in different States and UTs, leading to difficulties being faced by students in seeking admissions in schools on inter-state movement or the eligibility age for appearing in various competitive exams, comments were sought from all the States and UTs regarding age of admission in various classes in schools. Based on the information given by all the States and UTs, it was observed that 13 States/UTs are taking admission in class I at age 5+, whereas 21 States are taking at 6+.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 envisages a pedagogical structure of 5+3+3+4. The first 5 years comprise of 3 years of pre-school/anganwadi/balvatika corresponding to the age groups of 3-6 years and 2 years of Class 1 & 2 corresponding to the age group of 6-8 years. Also, RTE Act, 2009 states that every child of the age of 6-14 years shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education.

The States/UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chattisgarh, DNH & DND, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal prescribe 3 years duration of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) whereas the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh prescribe 2 years duration of ECCE.

In view of the provisions of NEP, 2020 and RTE Act, 2009, all the States Government and UT administrations have been requested, vide this Ministry's DO letter No. 9-2/20-IS-3 dated 31.03.2021 to align their age of admission with the NEP, 2020 and provide for admission to class I in age 6+ years in order to bring uniformity in age of admission throughout the country. Also, States were advised to prepare a state wise roadmap to ensure smooth transition over next 2-3 years. Also vide this Ministry's DO letter No. 22-7/2021-EE.19/IS.13 dated 09.02.2023 it was reiterated to ensure implementation of age criteria for admission to Grade I in age 6+ years in accordance with the recommendation of NEP, 2020.
