

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:325
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
PRE PRIMARY EDUCATION OF CHILDREN
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have come across a report based on the study made by an independent agency on the futility of subjecting children to pre-primary education like Nursery and KG;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the institutions of pre-primary education have become a money-spinning proposition ignoring the adverse effect of such education on small children; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to curb the growth of pre-primary system and divert the resources on the conventional primary education ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (d) :- A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 325 BY SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2000 REGARDING PRE- PRIMARY EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

(a) & (b): The Government is not aware of any report by an independent Agency on the futility of subjecting children to pre-primary education like nursery and KG.

(c) : Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is the largest programme for early childhood development in the country, providing a package of services including pre school education. No fee is charged by the centres run under this programme. In addition to centres run by the government under ICDS and other schemes, some private institutions also run centres providing pre primary education. Private Institutions not funded/ aided by government may be charging fee for provision of these services.

(d): The National Policy on Education 1986, emphasises the need for investment in the development of young children, particularly children from sections of the population in which first generation learners predominate.

Recognising the holistic nature of child development, viz., nutrition, health and social, mental, physical, moral and emotional development, the NPE gives high priority to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

Since early child care and pre-school education is useful for preparing the children to enter formal schooling, there is no proposal to curb the growth of pre primary system and the schemes run by the Government under various programmes for this purpose. Nevertheless, Government is making every effort to mobilise additional resources for the development of conventional primary education and universalisation of elementary education in the country.