

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
NATIONAL CHARTER FOR CHILDREN
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

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

- (a) whether the Government have prepared the National Charter for Children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main objective for preparing the said charter; and
- (d) the number of children likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a) (b) (c)&(d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION 320 FOR 11.12.2001 REGARDING NATIONAL CHARTER FOR CHILDREN

(a): Yes, Sir, the Department of Women & Child Development has prepared a draft National Policy and Charter for Children.

(b): The following are the details of the proposed National Policy and Charter for Children: The Charter is a policy guiding document which promotes protection of Rights of Children which include the following:

- 1) Right to Survival, Health, Nutrition and Standard of Living.
- 2) Right to Play and Leisure, Early Childhood Care and Education.
- 3) Right to Protection against Economic Exploitation.
- 4) Right to Protection of the Girl Child, and rights of Adolescents to education and skill development.
- 5) Right to Equality, Life and Liberty and Identity.
- 6) Right to Freedom of Expression, to seek and receive information.
- 7) Right to Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly.
- 8) Right to a Family.
- 9) Rights of Refugee Children, Children with Disabilities and Children from Marginalized & Disadvantaged Communities.
- 10) Rights of Child Victims.
- 11) Right to Child Friendly Procedures.

The proposed National Policy and Charter includes all elements and objectives of our existing and intended policies and programmes for children being implemented by several Ministries and Departments of the Central and State Governments and Voluntary Organizations.

The Charter also affirms that children's rights must be exercised in the context of attendant duties towards the family, society and the nation, and by inculcating a sense of values directed towards the same end. The Charter also emphasizes that Children's Rights can be most effectively implemented and protected through joint action of the State and the Community.

c): Objectives of the proposed National Policy and Charter are:

i) The National Policy and Charter reiterates Government's commitment to the cause of children. It would incorporate all issues pertaining to the welfare and development of children and would form the basis for programme formulation.

ii) The National Policy and Charter attempts to remove structural causes related to all issues adversely affecting children's rights in the wider societal context.

iii) The National Policy and Charter seeks the partnership of the community in order to protect children from violation of their rights, while strengthening the family, society and the Nation.

iv) The National Policy and Charter makes State and community jointly responsible for protecting child rights.

d) The National Policy and Charter will be a policy document of the Government for undertaking child welfare and development activities. All children of the country will be benefited by the document.