

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4811
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
SCOPE OF RTE ACT
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Sanjoy Shri Takam

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

(a) whether excluding children in the age group 0-6 and 14-18 from the 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act' is in contravention to the UN Convention on the Right of the Child, to which India is a signatory; and

(b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that children of age group 0-6, who cannot afford to start their education before they attain the age of six, are not adversely affected?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 is a consequential legislation of Article 21A of the Constitution which states that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children in the 6-14 age group in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. Section 11 of the RTE Act provides that the appropriate Government may take necessary steps to provide free pre-school education to children in the 3-6 age group in order to prepare them for elementary education. Under the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme, 3,46,21,548 children between the age group of 3-6 years are being provided pre- school education in the Anganwadi Centres.