

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:414
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
FORMAL EDUCATION
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision that there would be no formal education below six years of age;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to frame a concrete policy in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The National Policy on Education, 1986/92 recommends that programmes of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) will be child-oriented, focused around play and the individuality of the child. Formal methods and introduction of the 3-Rs will be discouraged at this stage. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. Section 11 of the RTE Act contains provision that with a view to prepare children above the age of three years for elementary education and to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years, the appropriate Government may make necessary arrangement for providing free pre-school education for such children.