

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6904
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
. PRE PRIMARY EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set any guidelines to ensure proper and effective pre-primary education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the pre-primary education system in the country has proved ineffective and lacks basic infrastructure like school building, proper environment etc;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure effective pre-primary education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (e): In so far as Government of India is concerned, the universal service of pre-school non-formal education is being provided under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme to the 3-6 years age children. The other five services covered under the scheme are supplementary nutrition, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. Last three services are delivered by the Ministry of Health & FW. All the six services covered under the scheme, including the pre-school non formal education, converge at the anganwadi centre through the AWW and AWH, being the frontline honorary workers. Presently, the scheme does not provide construction of building for Anganwadi Centre (except in NE States).

Pre-school non-formal education programme under the ICDS for three-to six years children is directed towards providing child - centred, activity based and developmentally appropriate pre-school education for holistic development of all domains i.e. physical, motor, language, cognitive, socio, emotional and development of creative and aesthetic appreciation.

Pre-school education kits are also provided under the scheme to each AWC at the present cost of Rs.1000/- per AWC per annum. The funds for providing these kits are born by the Centre and the States/UTs in the cost sharing ratio of 90:10.

As on 31.3.2012, 358.21 lakh children in the age group of 3-6 years (182.53 lakh boys and 175.68 lakh girls) have received pre-school education under ICDS in the country.

Pre-school non-formal education at the AWCs is being provided to the eligible children as per the existing guidelines and schematic norms. Recently, the MWCD through an elaborate consultative process has formulated "Draft National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)", "Draft National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Education (ECE)" and "Draft Quality Standards in ECCE" which have been circulated to all concerned seeking their views/comments/feedbacks before finalizing the same. These draft documents are also available on the website of Ministry of Women & Child Development i.e. <http://wcd.nic.in>.

Strengthening and Restructuring proposal of ICDS has been formulated which inter-alia includes construction of building for AWC with minimum 600 sq.ft. space, hygiene environment, water and sanitation facilities, opening AWCs for a minimum of six hours including four hours exclusively devoted to pre-school non-formal education, etc.