

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2227

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION POLICY

Chang Shri C. M.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to focus on a comprehensive approach towards providing a sound foundation for survival growth, protection, development and early learning under the proposed Early Childhood Care and Education Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received suggestions from various quarters of the society to have more Comprehensive Early Childhood Care Policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a): Yes Madam, the Government of India in the Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared "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" with a view to lay focus on a comprehensive approach towards providing a sound foundation for survival growth, protection, development and early learning under the proposed Early Childhood Care and Education. These documents were circulated to all the concerned organizations and public inviting their suggestions/comments and also hosted on Ministry's website i.e. <http://wcd.nic.in>

(b): The vision of the policy is to promote inclusive, equitable and contextualized opportunities for promoting optimal development and active learning capacity of all children below six years of age. It envisages to improve pathways for a successful and smooth transition from care and education provided at home to centre based ECCE and thereafter to school age provision by facilitating an enabling environment through appropriate systems, processes and provisions across the country. The Policy visualizes to provide holistic and integrated developmental opportunities to all children under six years age of age through programme and provisions for early childhood development.

(c): Yes, the Government has received suggestions/comments from various quarters of the society to have more Comprehensive Early Childhood Care Policy.

(d): As per the comments/suggestions received, the Policy has been considered a commendable initiative of the Government and is being welcomed as the first step in the recognition of the crucial nature of early childhood. The suggestions inter alia focus on a right based approach to ECD; enhanced focus on care and protection component in the policy; provision for child friendly Anganwadi buildings; adoption of quality norms and standards; regulation of all ECCE provisions whether in private, public, or voluntary sector; appropriate and adequate training for ECCE professionals; prerequisites in terms of qualifications, wages, hours of work, and establishment of career pathways for ECCE professionals; increased funding for ECCE, etc.

(e): The suggestions/comments received have been compiled and a National Level consultation is proposed to be held where these will be placed and considered before finalizing.