

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4354

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION POLICY

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering a comprehensive approach towards providing a sound foundation for survival growth, protection, development and early learning under the proposed Early Childhood Care and Education(ECCE) Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received suggestions from various quarters of the society in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken thereon and the time by which the ECCE policy is likely to be finalised?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared draft National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy framework with a view to lay focus on a comprehensive approach towards providing a sound foundation for survival growth, protection, development and early learning.

(c) & (d): The draft National ECCE Policy framework document was circulated to all the concerned organizations and public inviting their suggestions/comments and also hosted on Ministry's website i.e. wcd.nic.in. The Ministry received suggestions/comments from various quarters. The suggestions inter alia include 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, pre-requisites 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 were placed in the National Level consultation held on 29-10-2012 at Delhi. On the basis of this consultation, Ministry has finalized the draft National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy Framework. The draft Cabinet Note for the draft National ECCE policy 2013 has been circulated to the concerned Ministries for their final comments and thereafter would be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.