

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:943

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014

NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION POLICY

Chaudhary Shri C.R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced/ proposes to introduce a National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has held discussions/ consultations with the State Governments in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (e) the role of the State Governments outlined in the implementation of the said policy; and
- (f) the number of children likely to benefitted there from along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented ?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to(f): Yes Sir. The Government of India has introduced a National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy for the benefit of children in 0-6 age group. As per Census 2011 there are 158.7 million children in this age group.

The National Early Childhood care and Education (ECCE) Policy reaffirms the commitment of the Government of India to provide integrated services for holistic development of all children, along the continuum, from the prenatal period to six years of age. The Policy lays down the way forward for a comprehensive approach towards ensuring a sound foundation for survival, growth and development of child with focus on care and early learning of every child.

The Core Committee constituted for preparing the Draft National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy had representatives from State Governments who participated in the process of Policy formulation. The Committee also held four Regional Consultations in which representatives of State Women and Child Development Departments, Education Departments, Health Departments also participated. The draft National ECCE Policy was circulated amongst the concerned Ministries, State Government/UT Administration and other Stakeholders for feedback and it was also up loaded on the Ministry's website. A National Consultation for finalization of the draft National ECCE Policy was held on 29.10.2012 in which Secretaries from Department of Women and Child Development and Department of Education from various States participated.

The Policy has been notified in the Gazette on 12.10.2013. As per Policy, States/UTs will be responsible for rolling out of State/UT ECCE Policies and Action plans.