

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to include children between 3-14 years under Right to Education Act, 2010.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): India is home to 19% of the world's children. This means that India has the world's largest number of youngsters, which is largely beneficial, especially as compared to countries like China, which has an ageing population.

I would like to draw kind attention of the Government by suggesting to include children of three year to fourteen years in Right to Education Act. Every parent is concerned about their child's education and wants to provide the best education to them. Nowadays child's education is beyond learning how to write and read. Child's education means child's grooming, enhancing his knowledge, exposing him to different ideas and introducing him to the environment around him.

Pre-primary stage is the foundation of child's knowledge, skills and behavior. The completion of pre-primary education sends the child to primary stage. Primary education is the first stage of compulsory education. It enables the children to get prepared for future higher classes.

The enrolment in primary school starts from the age group of 6 years and continues till age 14. Elementary education mission in India looks after the facilities of the primary mode of education. The structure of primary school is preceded by pre-primary education and followed by secondary education. The subjects taught at the primary school include science, geography, history, math and other social sciences.

It has been 15 years since the 86th amendment to the Constitution and from all accounts our nation is approaching 100% enrolment in every habitation. However, quality of learning is a big problem.

One of the acknowledged reasons for this poor quality is that children enter school without preparation. Also, a large number of 5-year olds enter school in Std I, although RTE starts at the age of 6. (Almost 50% of 5-year olds are in Std 1st). Given all these facts and others that are numerous, it is time to: (a)

start at least 1 year of KG in all government schools and (b) once again amend the Constitution to include at least the age group of 3- 5 years children.