

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †332  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.06.2019

**Age Criteria for Admission in Primary Schools**

†332. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government regarding increasing the minimum age for admission in primary schools across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban pre-nursery schools which are responsible for behavioural changes in small children; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore ?;

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

- (a) No Sir. The Right to Education Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education for every child in the age group of 6 to 14 years beginning at primary level.
- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Section 11 of RTE Act, 2009 states that- "With a view to prepare children above the age of three years for elementary education and to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years, the appropriate Government may make necessary arrangements for pre-school education for such children." Appropriate Governments include States and UTs as Education is a concurrent subject. Research and experience have repeatedly demonstrated that Early Childhood Development and Education not only increases the progress and achievement of children in primary schools and lay the foundation for future growth, learning and development, but also develop positive attitudes and the desire to learn. Therefore, it becomes imperative to provide quality pre-school experiences to children. Under Samagra Shiksha, preschool programme is of up to 2 years duration that is for children of the age group 4-6 years which prepares the children for formal school education that begins at primary level.

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