

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1670
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

ENROLMENT IN ANGANWADIS

1670. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether at a time when enrolment rates for primary schools is reaching ninety per cent as a consequence of parents perception that education leads to better life, the enrolment/attendance in Anganwadis remains low as they neither consider parents perception of education nor fulfil their demand; and
- (b) if so, whether the ECCE curricula for different States focus on local language-driven and play-based pedagogy recommended by leading educators in India for this age group if so, the details and present status thereof along with corrective steps proposed in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) is one of the six free services provided through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) located across the country. As on 30th June, 2022, 3.03 crore children in the age group of 3-6 years have access to ECCE through Anganwadi Centres.

To promote play based, experimental and child friendly approach to development, a National Curricular Framework for ECCE was developed by Government to support the holistic development of children. Under National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, for universal access to ECCE, there is provision to roll-out ECCE in all the AWCs with strengthening of Anganwadi Centres, high-quality infrastructure, play equipment and well trained Anganwadi Workers for an enriched learning environment.

Priorities under ECCE includes communication strategy to orient parents on good quality ECCE and importance of positive parenting. The ECCE policy recommends strong advocacy initiatives through the use of media and inter-personal communication strategies including through print and electronic media to parents. Anganwadi Workers reach out to parents, using social media platforms, undertake home visits and share resources like monthly calendar of activities, video of songs, stories and rhymes to parents to ensure continuity of learning through play. The content of current ECCE curriculum is in regional languages with play based pedagogy.

During Poshan Maah 2022, *Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi* was a key theme which raised parents awareness on early childhood education. *Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi*, called for focus on quality pre-school education for children under 6 years which raised parents awareness on early childhood education. Under this theme close to 81 lakh activities were conducted focusing on early childhood care and education. Besides general sensitization for early learning, use and development of indigenous and locally available toys for learning at AWCs was promoted nationwide.

An Expert Committee set up by the Ministry to recommend age appropriate curriculum for children in the age group of 3-6 years, has submitted its report. The focus of the curriculum is on early stimulation (0-3 years) and early childhood care and education ECCE (3-6 years).
