

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 94
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2022

UNIVERSALIZATION OF ECCE

*94. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Ministry to universalize Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any plan to include children with disability, street children, children under institutional care and children of migrant workers under ECCE programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this direction?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 94 to be answered on 22.07.2022 regarding “Universalization of ECCE”

(a) to (d) National Education Policy 2020 recommends that universal provisioning of quality early childhood development, care and education must be achieved as soon as possible and not later than 2030 to ensure that all students entering Grade 1 are school ready.

Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) is one of the six free services provided through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) located across the country under Anganwadi Services being implemented by the Ministry of Women & Child Development as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Anganwadi Services under Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 is a universal self-selecting Scheme available to all the eligible beneficiaries who enroll themselves at the AWCs. As on March, 2022, there are 2.85 crore children in the age group 3-6 years who are beneficiaries of pre-school education in Anganwadi Centres under Anganwadi Services.

Under National Education Policy 2020, for universal access to ECCE, Anganwadi Centres will be strengthened with high-quality infrastructure, play equipment and well trained Anganwadi workers for an enriched learning environment. Accordingly, ECCE content will be modified in consultation with Ministry of Education, NCERT and other experts.

Ministry has formulated the National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy and this was notified by Government of India in the gazette on 12.10.2013. The complete ECCE policy is being revised/restructured in the light of National Education Policy 2020 and after restructuring is complete the same shall be notified in due course.

An expert committee has been set up to finalize age appropriate curriculum for the children in age group of 3-6 years.
