

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Convergence of ECE with primary education

*166. SHRI DEREK OBRIEN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for convergence of Early Childhood Education (ECE) with primary education to ensure easy transition for the child from pre-school to mainstream education and to arrest drop-outs;

(b) whether any minimum specifications have been laid down for ECE centres if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to improve working conditions of existing Anganwadi workers engaged in imparting ECE under ICDS?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) The common goal of Early Childhood Education (ECE) and primary education is to prepare the child for further advancement in the educational system. The curriculum and pedagogy in Early Childhood Education are intended to provide opportunities to stimulate the different domains of development and to facilitate transition to the formal education system.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the State Governments have worked closely with each other to develop the National ECCE Policy with the National Curriculum Framework and a Quality Standard Framework for ECCE. The latter provides minimum specifications for infrastructure, indoor and outdoor spaces, developmentally and age appropriate curriculum, adequate play materials, trained staff and facilities for drinking water, toilets and safety in the ECCE centres.

At the implementation level, the respective Departments are expected to build on the conceptual synergies and promote approaches that will enable children to make the transition easily from the Anganwadis to the school system and to make them better learners.

The convergence in many instances has been facilitated by co-location of Anganwadi Centres and primary school campus or establishment of Anganwadi Centres in close proximity with schools.

(c) The measures taken to improve the working conditions of Anganwadi workers are as follows:

- (i) Enhancement the honoraria of Workers, w.e.f. 1.4.2011 to around ₹ 3000/- for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), ₹1500/- for Anganwadi Helpers of AWCs. The honorarium of workers of Mini-AWCs has further been enhanced to ₹2250/- p.m. w.e.f. 04.7.2013. Most States/UTs provide additional honoraria to AWWs/AWHs from their own resources.
- (ii) Paid maternity leave upto 180 days.
- (iii) Govt. of India has introduced “Anganwadi Karyakarti Bima Yojana” to Anganwadi Workers/Anganwadi helpers” w.e.f. 1.4.2014 under Life Insurance Corporation’s Social Security Scheme.
- (iv) Scheme of Award has been introduced at National as well as State level to recognize and motivate Anganwadi workers.

Job oriented skill training for rural youth

†*167. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has prepared any plan to impart job-oriented skill training to rural youth; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development is undertaking a placement linked skill development scheme for rural poor youth called Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (erstwhile known as Aajeevika Skills).

- (b) DDU-GKY provides for:-

- Market-led, placement-linked training programme for rural youth undertaken in a PPP mode.
- Mandatory assured placement to 75% of the trained candidates.
- Focus on rural youth from poor families in the age group of 15 to 35 years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.