

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-342
ANSWERED ON- 06/12/2023

EDUCATION POLICY 2020

342. DR. PRASHANTA NANDA

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per Education policy 2020 minimum age of a child to get admission in Class1 in both Government and Private schools is 6 years;
- (b) whether Government is aware that in various parts of the country under 5 age children are getting admission in class-1 in both Government and Private schools;
- (c) if so, Government's view in this regard; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to maintain minimum eligibility age criteria of a child as 6 year to get admission in Class-1?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) Yes. The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 **vide para 4.1 inter-alia** envisages a pedagogical structure of 5+3+3+4. The first five years comprise of 3 years of pre-school/ anganwadi/ balvatika corresponding to the age groups of 3-6 years and two years of Class 1 & 2 corresponding to the age group of 6-8 years.

(b) and (c) Education is in concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools in the country are under the administrative control of the State Governments and UT Administrations. States have their own State Education Acts/Regulations to run the schools coming under their jurisdiction. The States/UTs had prescribed different age criteria for admission in various classes in schools as per their norms. Due to anomaly in age criteria prescribed for admission in various classes in schools in different States

and UTs, leading to difficulties being faced by students in seeking admissions in schools on inter-state movement or the eligibility age for appearing in various competitive exams, comments were sought from all the States and UTs regarding age of admission in various classes in schools. It was observed that 13 States/UTs were taking admission in class I at age 5+, whereas 21 States were taking at 6+.

(d) To maintain minimum eligibility age criteria in view of the provisions of NEP, 2020, all the States Government and UT administrations have been requested, vide this Ministry's DO letter No. 9-2/20-IS-3 dated 31.03.2021 to align their age of admission with the NEP, 2020 and provide for admission to class I in age 6+ years in order to bring uniformity in age of admission throughout the country. States were also advised to prepare a state wise roadmap to ensure smooth transition over next 2-3 years. Also vide this Ministry's DO letter No. 22-7/2021-EE.19/IS.13 dated 09.02.2023 it was reiterated to ensure implementation of age criteria for admission to Grade I in age 6+ years in accordance with the recommendation of NEP, 2020.
