

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:87

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010

WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda

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

- (a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has formulated any guidelines seeking to prescribe weight limits on school bags for its students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the time by which these guidelines will be implemented;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement these guidelines uniformly for all the students in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which these measures are likely to help the students?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.87 FOR 03-3-2010 ASKED BY SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI AND SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has issued guidelines on 29-12-2009 to the effect that for students of class I & II, the weight of books and notebooks carried in the school bag including the weight of the bag should not exceed 2 kg, whereas the weight limits are 3 kg, 4 kg and 6 kg for classes III-IV, V-VII and VIII-XII respectively. The guidelines are meant to be followed with immediate effect.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal at present. The Report of the "National Advisory Committee to advise on Improving the Quality of Learning while reducing the burden on school students", in its report of 1993 presented to this Ministry had stated that there was no justification for torturing the young children by compelling them to carry very heavy bags of books every day to school.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued circulars dated 04-05-2006, 17-04-2007 and 27-10-2008 on reducing the load of school bags to all the schools affiliated to CBSE.

Education is in the concurrent list and a majority of the schools are under the purview of the State Governments and it is for the States to take appropriate action in the matter of regulating the weight of school bags in the schools under their jurisdiction.

(e): On physiological consideration, a child should not be allowed to carry heavy weight. The measures taken by KVS will enable the young children to avoid physical stress.