

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1522

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for the weight limits of the school bags;
- (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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e) Government of India had constituted a National Advisory Committee in 1993 to advise on the ways and means to reduce the academic burden on school students. The Committee had observed inter-alia, that there was no justification for the young children to carry heavy bags of books everyday to schools. The National Curriculum Framework, 2005 reiterates the need to reduce curricular burden. Central Board of Secondary Education has issued instruction to its affiliated schools on the following:

(i) to restrict a number of textbook prescribed for students specially at primary level.

(ii) No over-prescription of textbooks for all classes and keeping the number of textbooks limited.

(iii) to initiate the Learning process joyfully and stress free by introducing Continuous & Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) upto class VIII then and now upto class X.

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has issued instruction to all its schools to ensure that the weight of books and notebooks including school bag should not be more than 2kg for classes I and II, 3 kg for classes III and IV, 4kg for classes V to VII and 6kg for classes VIII to XII. Schools affiliated to State Boards follow curriculum and syllabi of respective Boards.