

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4531

ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011

WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS

Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane;Rana Shri Jagdish Singh;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether carrying of heavy school bags is causing adverse effect on the health of the students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the weight of school bags of children studying in Government, aided and private schools in Delhi is more than the weight prescribed by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS);
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether adequate measures have been taken/being taken to ensure the compliance of guidelines/instructions of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)/Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) by schools in regard to load of schoolbags; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/being taken against the concerned schools?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a)to(f) No, Sir. NCERT has not recommended any textbooks for early childhood education. Only two books (Language & Mathematics) for class I and II and three books for Class III to V. Many States and UTs are using NCERT Text Books for all classes which are in consonance with the CBSE's circular on 'Reducing the Bag Load on Children' to all the CBSE affiliated schools. The CBSE has issued circular dated 17.04.2007 and dated 05.04.2006 on "Reducing the Bag Load on Children" to all the CBSE affiliated schools. It inter alia, present the following:

- (i) to implement the textbooks prescribed by NCERT
- (ii) in case, the schools are using other than NCERT books (for elementary & primary classes), the number of these books should not exceed as prescribed by NCERT.
- (iii) The Boards has also instructed the schools to restrict a number of textbook prescribed for students especially at primary level. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has issued instruction to all its schools to ensure that the weight of books an notebooks including school bag should not be more than 2 kg for classes I and II, 3 kg for classes III and IV, 4 kg for classes V to VII and 6 kg for classes VIII to XII. Schools affiliated to State Boards follow curriculum and syllabi of respective Boards.