

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:374

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

FIRE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal;Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has assessed fire safety preparedness in the schools and has urged all the State Governments to ensure that all fire safety measures are updated in the schools and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has made any comprehensive plan for installation of fire extinguishers in all the schools and colleges in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also directed the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to maintain all safety related measures;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received requests/proposals from the State Governments for providing financial assistance to them for fire safety equipment/ measures in schools; and
- (f) if so, the details of such requests/ proposals received during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise along with the response of the Union Government to these requests/proposals?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 374 RAISED BY SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI & SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU, HON'BLE MPs TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.05.2012 REGARDING FIRE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS.

(a) & (b): Ministry of Human Resource Development had written to all the Chief Ministers and Union Territories' Administrators vide letter dated 27th July, 2004 to ensure safety and well being of the children in the schools by taking necessary measures for the fire safety in the school buildings. The framework of implementation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Model School Scheme provides that school buildings should adhere to specified building standards including the National Building Code in respect of practices of fire safety in educational institutions. In addition, State SSA implementation societies are also advised to take steps for School Safety and Disaster Management requirement in school designs. The State Governments were informed of the judgement passed on 13/04/2009 by the Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 483 of 2004, Avinash Mehrotra Vs. Union of India & Others regarding fire safety in schools. Instructions have also been issued from time to time by National Disaster Management Division (NDM) of Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Public Works Department, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to the concerned authorities for ensuring adequate fire safety management in the schools including installation of fire extinguishers.. The affiliation bye-laws of CBSE also lay-down that schools should observe fire safety guidelines issued by local Municipal and Fire Authorities.

(c) & (d): Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that it has issued necessary instructions to all the Regional Offices and Principals to provide adequate fire fighting measures. All the KVs have sufficient number of fire extinguishers and from time to time safety drills are also organized to sensitize children and other staff. Buildings of all KVs have been constructed as per National Building Code.

(e) & (f): Under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Annual Plan 2011-12, the proposals for providing Disaster Management equipments including fire safety devices were received from the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Manipur and Haryana. The Project Approval Board advised the State Governments to meet the expenditure from the school annual grant under which Rs. 50,000/- per school is provided.