

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1041

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether most of the schools are not following his Ministry's guidelines of 2008 prescribed to limit the weight of children's school bags;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not complying with the guidelines along with the action taken by the Government against schools which are not following the guidelines;
- (d) whether this has affected the children posture and also causing disability;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that all the schools strictly follow the guidelines?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued an advisory in 2008 on reducing the load of school bags to all the schools affiliated to the board. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has also issued guidelines in 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-VM and VIII-XII respectively. Education is in the concurrent list and the majority of the country's schools are under the purview of the State Governments. 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. On physiological considerations, a child should not be allowed to carry heavy weight. The measures taken by KVS and CBSE will enable the young children to avoid physical stress due to heavy school bags.