

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:359

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015

Weight of School Bags

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that the weight of school bags of students particularly of primary and secondary classes have become so heavy that there are chances of its ill affects on their physical health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme for teaching through e-classes and latest learning aids in the era of internet which will reduce the weight of school bags; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has not recommended any textbook for early childhood education. It has recommended only two books (Language and Mathematics) for classes I & II and three books for classes III to V (Language, Environmental Studies and Mathematics). The number and size of NCERT's textbooks used by the primary and secondary school students are appropriate to their age. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had directed schools in 2007 and 2008 to ensure that students do not carry school bags till class II and also to restrict the number of books to be prescribed in classes I-VIII. CBSE has also issued a circular in 2005 to ensure that the parents are not forced to buy excessive number of textbooks.

(c) & (d) Whereas e-books may reduce the weight of school bags, considering the fact that schools are spread throughout the country including in remote areas, it may not be possible to do away with the printed text books for some time to come.

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