GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2772 ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014 SAFETY MEASURES IN SCHOOLS Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

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

- (a) whether educational institutions have not paid enough attention to the safety of students from tragedies like fires and stampedes in schools as well as school bus accidents:
- (b) if so, the details of the tragedies that occurred and the number of students killed during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a department to look after the enforcement of mandatory safety measures by Indian educational institutions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

- (a): The Education being a subject under the concurrent list, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to ensure safety of students in schools and to take measures to prevent school bus accidents. This Ministry issues Guidelines from time to time under section 35
- (i), of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 on various aspects. The last such guidelines were issued on 26th March 2014 on eliminating Corporal Punishment in schools. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, School Management Committees (SMCs) are trained especially on all aspect of safety and security of children in schools.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has formulated and circulated detailed guidelines to its affiliated schools for safety of students in schools and prevention of school bus accidents. These include guidelines on exterior, fixtures, manpower and facilities in the school buses. The Board has also prescribed a comprehensive checklist for schools to deal with Safety issues besides issuing circulars from time to time. Further information with regard to Indian Educational Institutions from University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

- (b): The Ministry of Human Resource Development does not maintain such centralized data.
- (c) and (d): Presently, no such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.