

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2755
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2021**

Re-opening of schools post-pandemic

2755 Shri Abdul Wahab:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures that have been taken by the Ministry to ensure compliance with the guidelines for re-opening of schools Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 30th September, 2020 by private schools under any centrally sponsored scheme; and
- (b) the details of guidelines/instructions issued by the Ministry to State Governments around measures to prevent overcharging and fee hikes by private schools, especially during the COVID-19 period?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) & (b) Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide their order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 30th September, 2020 has stated that State/UT Governments may take a decision in respect of re-opening of schools, after 15th October, 2020, in a graded manner, the decision shall be taken in consultation with the respective school/institution management, based on their assessment of the situation. The students may attend schools/institutions only with the written consent of parents. Online /distance learning shall continue to be the preferred mode of teaching and shall be encouraged.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has issued detailed SOP/guidelines regarding health and safety precautions for reopening of schools after issue of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines for unlock-5, on 5th October, 2020. These guidelines can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/SOP_Guidelines_for_reopening_schools_0.pdf

Further, to mitigate the effect of the Covid pandemic on school education various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Education, States and Union Territories. A detailed report on these initiatives may be seen at the website of Education Ministry at following link:

https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/covid_initiatives.pdf

The matter relating to fees and its components in schools are regulated in terms of Rules and Instructions of the State Government concerned. It is for the respective State Government concerned to take necessary action against such schools which violate the Rules and Instructions of the State Government in the matter. As schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are expected to follow the guidelines issued by the respective State/UT government, the Board has requested various State Education Departments in April 2020 to consider issuing instructions on the periodicity of payment of school fees and salaries to the school staff applicable for the pandemic period.
