

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-815
ANSWERED ON- 14/12/2022

FIRE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

815. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has formulated guidelines for schools that envisage fire prevention and fire safety measures and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether most of the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) do not have adequate and efficient fire safety procedures and means in their premises/campuses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to ensure all schools and colleges have fire safety certificates within a stipulated time and has issued any guidelines to State Governments to take immediate steps to provide adequate fire safety measures in all schools/colleges/universities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (d) Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the jurisdiction of respective States/UTs. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security', for fixing the accountability of the School Management in the matter of safety and security of children studying in Government, Government-aided and Private Schools, in pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 136 of 2017 and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 874 of 2017; and in line with the provisions contained in the National Education Policy, 2020. These guidelines have been prepared by an expert committee and through extensive consultation

with all stakeholders. The guidelines are advisory in nature and have been circulated to all States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies of DoSEL and stakeholder Ministries on 01.10.2021.

These guidelines are to be read with National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy, 2016 which are statutory in nature and are required to be complied without any deviation. The NDMA guidelines provide for conducting quarterly safety audits by the School Management Committee on ten designated activities, of which, conducting annual mock drills, installation of fire-extinguishers, training of students and teachers in school safety and disaster preparedness, adherence to safety norms with respect to storage of inflammable and toxic material and grant of recognition certificate only to those schools that comply with structural safety norms specifically pertain to fire safety.

The University Grants Commission has also framed guidelines on safety of students, on and off the campuses of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). Under these guidelines, the HEIs should install a fire safety system under which mechanisms for the detection of a fire, the warning resulting from a fire and standard operating procedures for control of the fire are evolved. Students and staff should be trained in the effective operation of fire fighting devices. Mock drills for fire situation should also be undertaken at least once in a semester.

(b) & (c) All the functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been directed to have adequate and sufficient fire safety procedures and means as prescribed in National Disaster Management Guidelines – School Safety Policy, 2016.

Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in permanent building have adequate and efficient fire safety equipments and KVs with temporary building have adequate fire safety equipments. All Kendriya Vidyalayas follow safety procedure as outlined in NDMA Guidelines.
