

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 109
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023**

Forced selling of uniforms by private schools

***109. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:**

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any policy/guidelines in place against the private schools selling school uniforms to students at a higher rate than the market price;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has initiated any action against the private schools which directly/indirectly force the students to buy the school uniforms from them or specific vendor; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 109 FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2023 ASKED BY HON'BLE M.P. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P REGARDING FORCED SELLING OF UNIFORMS BY PRIVATE SCHOOLS

(a) to (d): Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of schools being under the jurisdiction of the State/Union Territory Governments, it is for the respective State/Union Territory Government to take a decision in the matter for their schools.

However, to support states in implementation of various provision of RTE Act 2009, provision like free uniforms to eligible students at elementary level has been made for reducing sense of economic disparities among students and focusing on improving their learning outcomes. Such entitlement is being provided by Government of India under a flagship program namely, Samagra Shiksha. To access the provision of free uniforms through Government of India funds, the State RTE Rules must declare uniform as a child entitlement up to class VIII. Under this scheme, two sets of uniforms are being provided to all girls and boys belonging to SC/ST/BPL families in Government schools only up to class VIII at an average cost of Rs. 600/- per child per annum. Additionally, Rs. 250 per child at primary level and Rs. 400 per child at upper primary level is being provided for textbook to all students studying in Government, local bodies, Government aided schools including Madarasas desirous of introducing the State curriculum. For 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 4808 crore has been approved for providing free uniform to 8.17 crore eligible students. During 2023-24, an amount of Rs. 3285 crore has been approved for providing free text books to 10.41 crore children. Private schools don't come under the purview of the scheme.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued Circular No. 08/2018 dated 21.06.2018 to all the schools for regarding sale of books, stationary items and uniform in schools. As per the provisions of the circular, if a school makes available books, both NCERT and non-NCERT, stationery and uniform items for sale in the school premises, then the sale of these items must be done without compelling on the students / parents to buy the same from these shops. Further, CBSE also directed the schools not to compel students / parents for buying the books and items from any other specified vendors also.
