

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 970
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2024

Closure of schools due to heatwaves

970 Smt. Mahua Maji:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to ensure that learning outcomes are not affected due to heatwave-related school closures, especially for children from low-income families;
- (b) whether Government intends to set up any regulations for the adoption of Indigenous cooling mechanisms in Government school classrooms; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (c): Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools, are under the management of respective State and UT Governments. The concerned States/UTs are to ensure that learning outcomes are not affected due to heatwave and other weather-related school closures, according to local weather conditions. However, keeping in view the prevailing heat wave in various parts of the country, which may pose a risk at times to the health of the school going students, Department of School Education has issued guidelines on 11th May, 2022 on measures to combat ill effects of the heat wave by schools, to all States/UTs. The guidelines inter-alia includes 'if any local traditional practices are being followed by the school to keep the surroundings cool such as 'Khus' curtains, bamboo/jute chiks etc., they may be continued'.

The guidelines are advisory in nature and States/UTs can use these as per their local conditions in the manner deemed fit to prepare their SOPs/Guidelines to combat ill effects of the heat waves in their schools.

Additionally, the digitisation of pedagogy and its digital reach is simultaneously enabling 24×7 learning by students and teachers alike.
