

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1463
ANSWERED ON 12/03/2025

Heatwaves and School Disruptions

1463 **Shri S Niranjan Reddy:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over 5 crores school students have been affected by heatwaves, as revealed by the 2024 UNICEF Report on climate related school disruptions, and the details thereof;

(b) the measures being taken by Government to improve the resilience of school infrastructure against heatwaves and the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Government strategy to ensure that education does not get disrupted due to heatwaves, especially in the wake of the digital infrastructure gap in schools revealed by the recent UDISE+ report?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SH. 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. To improve the resilience of school infrastructure against heatwaves, the guidelines inter-alia includes following precautions to be observed by schools to combat the ill-effects of the heat wave:-

- School should ensure that all fans are functional and that all classrooms are properly ventilated
- Availability of alternate power back up may be arranged, if possible
- Curtains/blinds/newspaper, etc. may be used to stop the sunlight entering directly into the classroom

- 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.
