

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1962
ANSWERED ON 17/12/2025**

Policy on School Bag, 2020

1962 # **Dr. Bhim Singh:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the clear guidelines of the New Education Policy, 2020 and the 'Policy on School Bag, 2020' issued by Government, the weight of students' bags in most schools still exceeds the prescribed limit, especially in primary classes where children have to carry heavy bags daily; and

(b) whether there is any laxity in effective implementation of these policies by schools, if so, whether Government, in coordination with State Governments, would formulate a concrete action plan to ensure strict inspections, penalties and mandatory compliance?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 in para 4.33 aims to make concerted efforts, through suitable changes in curriculum and pedagogy, with the support of NCERT, SCERTs, schools, and educators to significantly reduce the weight of school bags and textbooks.

Policy on School Bag was formulated by an Expert Committee comprising of members from National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and released by NCERT in 2020. The Ministry of Education has circulated the Policy across the States and UTs vide its letter dated 24th November 2020.

Ratio for school bag is suggested as 10 per cent of the body weight in School Bag Policy for all classes from pre-primary to class XII. It is also suggested in school bag policy that from Classes I to V, teachers must take the responsibility of checking the weight of school bag of children randomly every three months on a day selected for the whole class. Information about the heavy bag needs to be communicated to the parents of the child and the bag needs to be monitored for a week or two for ensuring that the child starts carrying a lighter bag.

Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. States & UTs have been advised to adopt relevant suggestions of the School Bag Policy and National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and ensure the implementation of the same.
