

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 512
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2026

Safety audits in schools

512 **Shri Sandosh Kumar P:**

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

- (a) whether Government has directed all States/UTs to conduct safety audits of school and public facilities buildings used by children in accordance with national safety codes and disaster management guideline;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of key parameters likely to be assessed, the standard safety protocols and emergency preparedness measures taken during these audits?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of respective State Government and UT Administration. Guidelines issued by Ministry of Education are advisory in nature and States/UTs are expected to implement them and they may incorporate additions/modifications to them, according to their specific requirements.

The Ministry of Education has issued a latest directive on 26th July 2025 to all States and Union Territories to take urgent steps to ensure the student safety and well-being. This refers to the "Guidelines on School Safety and Security" (2021) issued on 01.10.2021 and the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety (NDMA, 2016) issued on 27.02.2017 and includes safety audits of schools and child-related facilities as per national safety codes, training for staff and students in emergency preparedness, and the provision of psychosocial support through counselling and peer networks. The Ministry has urged Education Departments, School Boards, and affiliated authorities to act without delay in implementing these measures. The directives are available on the link: <https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/ss2607.pdf>

In continuation, the Ministry of Education on 7th August 2025, has directed all States/UTs to ensure the structural safety of school buildings and urgent identification of unsafe and dilapidated school buildings through safety audits, followed by demolition, if required or repair of structurally unsafe structures, and prohibition of use, until certified safe. Authorities are advised to arrange temporary schooling where needed, gainfully use the space created due to demolition, ensure regular monitoring and reporting, and ensure safety/ structural fitness compliance certification for any re-occupancy. States/ UTs are instructed to strictly enforce the above measures. The directives are available on the link: <https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/ss07008.pdf>

Earlier, Government of India has issued various guidelines for ensuring safety and security of children in schools, as under: -

1. Guidelines on School Safety and Security by Department of School Education and Literacy issued on 01.10.2021. These guidelines are uploaded on the website of DoSEL at https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/guidelines_sss.pdf
2. Guidelines on School Safety Policy by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA, 2016) issued on 27.02.2017. These guidelines are available at the link: https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/rte/Guidelines_feb.pdf
3. NCPCR examined and compiled different guidelines and developed a comprehensive manual titled- “Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools” dated 26.02.2018. The manual is available at the link: https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/165604923562b54e531fe87_manual-on-safety-and-security-of-children-in-schools-sep-2021-2465-kb.pdf

These guidelines *interalia* contain provisions for ensuring the safety and security of children in schools and fixing the accountability of various stakeholders and different departments.

The guidelines aim to foster collaboration among stakeholders for a safe school environment, raise awareness of existing safety policies, clarify roles in implementation, assign accountability for child safety during school activities and transportation, and enforce a strict ‘Zero Tolerance Policy’ against negligence.

The NDMA guidelines provide for monitoring of implementation of the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy on designated activities and parameters like conducting safety audits with respect to safety protocols and emergency preparedness, 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 pertaining to fire safety.
