

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.255  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017**

**Heavy School Bags**

255. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps in consultation with State Governments to lessen the burden of school bags of young students; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)**

(a) & (b) The Government has taken various initiatives to reduce the curriculum load and the weight of school bags. Some of the initiatives taken in this regard are as under: -

(i) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has recommended only two books (Language and Mathematics) for classes I & II and three books for Classes III to V (Language, Environmental Studies and Mathematics). NCERT has also made available all their textbooks for free access through the web ([epathshala.nic.in](http://epathshala.nic.in)) and mobile devices.

(ii) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed schools affiliated to it to ensure that students do not carry school bags till Class II. In its latest circular dated 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, it has advised all its affiliated schools to take all possible measures to keep the weight of school bag under control.

(iii) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has taken a number of steps to promote digital learning in its Vidyalayas. To begin with, all the students of class VIII in 25 Kendriya Vidyalayas (One KV from each region) shall be provided with good quality Tablets on PILOT BASIS. The students will use these Tablets as also their teachers for Mathematics and Science for enhancing their core skills in these subjects.

Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of schools are under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is for the respective State/Union Territory Government to take appropriate measures to reduce the weight of schools bags of the children studying in their schools.