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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1988 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2018

Unsafe School Buildings

1988. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has done any study to identify schools running from unsafe buildings in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government both in terms of policy as well as administratively to ensure safety of school going children in this respect?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), 2016-17 (Provisional), 0.67% schools are having building in dilapidated condition and 7.73% of classrooms in schools across the country require major repairs.
- (c) Section 19 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides norms and standards for a recognised school. The RTE norms inter alia provide for a physically sound, all-weather building. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued guidelines in October, 2014 to all State/UT Governments for ensuring safety and security of school children, including preventive mechanisms and procedures required to be put in place in the schooling system alongwith relief and redressal strategies in case of any incident.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued school safety policy guidelines which were circulated to all States and UTs in September, 2017 for compliance. The guidelines provide for conducting quarterly safety audits by the School Management Committee (SMC) in schools including fire safety and food safety. The guidelines are available on the Ministry's website www.mhrd.gov.in.

Also, as per CBSE Affiliation Bye-laws, before grant of Affiliation, a school is required to submit a certificate from the competent authority to the effect that the school building is safe.