

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2050
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2018

School Bags

†2050. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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

- (a) whether the Yashpal committee had recommended Learning without Burden in 1993 and if so, the action taken by the Government on such recommendations;
- (b) whether the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been asked to prepare a Report to provide tablet/PCs to all schools and to formulate a flexible time table with a view to ease the burden of school bags on students and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to prepare guidelines for CBSE schools to reduce burden of school bags and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that some Government schools in Maharashtra have started a programme for reducing burden of school bags under which students are not required to bring their school bags and schools making provide school bags in schools and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the reasons for not following such system by other schools;
- (f) whether there is any proposal to divide the course books in two parts to lighten the burden of school bags and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which the said suggestions are likely to be implemented?

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

(a) The issues related to curriculum load raised in the Yash Pal Committee Report (1993) on 'Learning Without Burden' were, *inter-alia*, taken into consideration at the time of framing of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) –2005 by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The NCF sets the guidelines and direction for the development of curriculum, syllabi and textbooks at all the school stages. As a follow up to the NCF, curriculum, syllabi, text-books and other supplementary material are developed by NCERT. State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and State Education Boards either adopt or adapt NCERT's model syllabi and textbooks or develop their own syllabi and textbooks based on NCF.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have already taken measures to reduce the weight of school bags. NCERT has not recommended any textbook for early childhood education. It has recommended only two books (Language and Mathematics) for classes I & II and three books for classes III to IV (Language, Environmental Studies and Mathematics). NCERT has also made available all their textbooks for free access through the web (epathshala.nic.in) and mobile devices. CBSE has directed schools affiliated to it to ensure that students do not carry school bags till class II and also to restrict the number of books to be prescribed in classes I-VIII.

Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of schools being under the jurisdiction of the State/Union Territory Government, it is for the respective States/Union Territory Government to prescribe norms with regard to appropriate weight of School Bags for their schools.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) The CBSE has already advised all its affiliated schools vide their circular dated 12th September, 2016 to take all possible measures to keep the weight of school bag under control.

(d) The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that they have not started any such programme.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(g) Does not arise.
