

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2074
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH DECEMBER, 2018**

Protection from Smog to School going Children

2074. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE:

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

- (a) whether the Government intend to provide protection to the school going young children who have to go to schools in early hours when the pollution levels are at its peak especially in cities like NCT of Delhi which pose a potentially dangerous health hazard to these school going children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education for children of the age 6-14 years for classes I to VIII. Section 29 of the RTE Act, 2009 provides that the academic authority, specified by the appropriate Government, while formulating the curriculum shall take into consideration the all round development of the child and development of physical and mental abilities to the fullest extent. The norms and standards for schools under RTE Act, 2009 provides for 200 working days for class I to V and 220 working days for class VI to VIII in an academic year.

Further, education is in the Concurrent List and majority of the schools are under the purview of State/UT Government. The values with respect to curriculum as enshrined in the RTE Act implies that the safety and overall development of children is at the topmost priority and it is primarily for States/UTs to take appropriate action while taking into account the regional/local issues like air pollution/adverse weather conditions to regulate the curriculum in schools and declare holidays accordingly.
