

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1309  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2019

**Fire Safety in Schools**

1309. SHRI PASUNOORIDAYAKAR  
SHRI N. REDDEPPA:

Will the Minister of HUMANRESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the safety of children has been compromised in all manners, including lack of valid fire safety certificates by the schools and colleges in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government propose to de-recognise the schools which are not having fire safety certificates in future and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to ensure all schools and colleges have fire safety certificates within a stipulated time to ensure safety of children in future?

**A N S W E R**

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) & (d) : No, Sir. The Right to Education incorporates the provisions of safe schools. The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued detailed guidelines to all States and UTs regarding safety and security of children in October, 2014 and the same had been reiterated in 2017 consequent upon formulation of school safety guidelines by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The guidelines have suggested preventive institutional mechanisms and procedures that should be put in place in the schooling system along with the relief and redressal strategies in case of any untoward incidents in the schools. It covers various aspects related to the safety and security of school children including infrastructure which includes physical structures of school

building, electrical and fire safety mechanism, safety audits in schools including fire safety and clearance by fire authority etc.

These guidelines envisage that fire prevention and fire safety measures should be part of initial school design and also require regular maintenance and testing. The University Grants Commission has also framed guidelines on safety of students, on and off the campuses of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). Under these guidelines, the HEIs should install a fire safety system under which mechanisms for the detection of a fire, the warning resulting from a fire and standard operating procedures for control of the fire are evolved. Students and staff should be trained in the effective operation of fire fighting devices. Mock drills for fire situation should also be undertaken at least once in a semester.

(b) & (c): The schools affiliated to CBSE are required to follow the guidelines relating to safety of children in schools, including the following:-

- (i) The guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 483 of 2004 in the matter of Avinash Mehrotra (Petitioner) Versus Union of India & Others (Respondents);
- (ii) The guidelines on School Safety Policy, 2016 issued by the NDMA which is statutory in nature;
- (iii) Manual on Safety and security of children in schools developed by NCPCR &
- (iv) National Building Code-2005, as amended from time to time.

The Department of School Education & Literacy has also requested all States and UTs to sensitize the entire administrative and monitoring machinery towards effective implementation of the guidelines on safety and security of school children; and institutionalizing and ensuring a safe, secure and vibrant environment in schools for children.

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The Government does not intend to initiate any such action.

Under Samagra Shiksha, Construction Standards for School Buildings have been specified. The National Building Code (NBC) 2016, developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) provides guidelines for regulating building construction activities across the country. It serves as a model code for adoption by all agencies involved in building construction works. The code should serve as a reference for all States and UTs, for design, planning, preparation and execution of school infrastructure components. This requirement does not preclude the use of local construction design, materials and practices. The relevant BIS code of practice of fire safety in educational institutions is IS-14435-1997

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