

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2020

Safety of Students

1333. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints of atrocities against students in schools in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of incidents of killing/rape of students in school come to the notice of the Government during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to modify the existing guidelings intended to curb such incidents in schools due to rising crime against children inside schools;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which such guidelines are likely to be modified and implemented in the country; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government in this direction?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (c): Data regarding complaints of atrocities against students and incidents of killing/rape of students in schools are not maintained in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). Education being a subject in the Concurrent list of the Constitution, a majority of the schools are under the control of the respective State Governments. The State Governments and Union Territory Administration have the direct responsibility to ensure safety and security of students in schools under their respective States and UTs.

(d) to (f): The RTE Act, 2009 prohibits 'physical punishment' and 'mental harassment' under Section 17(1) and makes it a punishable offence under Section 17(2). The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) have been entrusted with the task of monitoring under Section 31 of the RTE Act, 2009. NCPCR has developed a Manual on safety and security of

children in school setting. NCPCR has also suggested authorities at different levels such as SMC, School Principal, School Management, Education Department and Boards, to conduct safety audits in schools.

The incidents of deaths of children in schools have been viewed seriously and this Ministry gives full importance to the physical safety and psycho-social well being of children in schools. This Ministry has issued Guidelines/Advisory dated 26.03.2014 under Section 35(1) of the RTE Act, 2009 to all the States and Union Territories for elimination of Corporal Punishment in Schools.

Moreover, MHRD 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 MHRD has also issued an advisory to all States and UTs vide letter dated 18.10.2019 on School Safety Pledge and School Safety Display Board to ensure physical and psychological well-being of the children.

Following the judgement given in the Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 136 of 2017 and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 874 of 2017 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this Department has prepared guidelines for fixing the accountability of school management in the matter of safety of children studying in schools.
