

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 159  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY , 2020**

**Weight of School Bags**

159. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently instructed all the States and Union Territories including Andhra Pradesh to formulate guidelines to regulate or moderate the teaching of subjects and weight limit of school bags;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with regard to the prescribed guidelines along with the weight limit of school bags;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor that schools are implementing the said guidelines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): The Department of School Education & Literacy has issued a communication addressed to all States and UTs including Andhra Pradesh vide letter no. 1-4/2018-IS-3 dated 05/10/2018 to take necessary action on the points given as under:

- (i) To not prescribe any homework for class I & II students in the State Board/Matriculation/Anglo Indian schools.
- (ii) To not prescribe any other subjects except language and Mathematics for Class I and II students and language, EVS and mathematics for Class III to V students as prescribed by NCERT.

- (iii) To disaffiliate schools prescribing homework and non-prescribed subject for Class I and II students and class III to V students.
- (iv) To formulate “Children School Bag Policy” reducing the weight of the School bags in the line of guidelines issued by either State of Telangana or State of Maharashtra.
- (v) To form special squads to inspect the schools and prevent the use of non-prescribed books

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 brought out by NCERT emphasizes upon shifting learning away from rote methods, connecting knowledge to life outside school, enriching the curriculum to provide for overall development of children rather than remain textbook centric and making examination more flexible and integrated to classroom life.

The NCERT has taken following initiatives in this context:

- (i) New syllabi and textbook reflects the NCF 2005 perspective on curriculum load and are interactive and based on child centered pedagogy. The NCERT textbooks and other teaching learning materials are available online on its website [www.ncert.nic.in](http://www.ncert.nic.in).
- (ii) NCERT recommends only two books (Language and Mathematics) for Classes I and II and three books (Language, EVS and Mathematics) for Classes III to V.
- (iii) NCF 2005 suggests that autonomy should be given to the schools to develop their own flexible time table so that school can teach two or three subjects each day giving students more time to do activities and develop deeper understanding of the concept. NCERT addresses this issue in capacity building programme for teachers and school heads.

Also, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued circulars specifying the maximum number of books to be prescribed in classes I-VIII. They have also issued a Circular on 12/09/2016 which provides detailed guidelines to schools, teachers and parents to reduce the weight of school bags and vide circular dated 13/08/2018 advised schools to ensure no homework for students till Class II.

(c) and (d): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools in the country are under the administrative control of the State Governments and UT Administrations, who ensure the implementation of guidelines/instructions issued from time to time.

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