

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2200
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

Opening of Schools

2200. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to open all schools, colleges and universities from April 2021 onwards;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments and the concerned boards have been issued any instruction on post-covid precaution and other measures to be taken;

(c) the details of the proposal to reopen pre schooling and classes upto standard 4 therein; and

(d) the details of vaccination to students through schools and the supply and or availability of vaccines if any, thereof and if not, reason thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide their order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 30th September, 2020 has stated that State/UT Governments may take a decision in respect of re-opening of schools, after 15th October, 2020, in a graded manner, The decision shall be taken in consultation with the respective school/institution management, based on their assessment of the situation.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has issued detailed SOP/guidelines regarding health and safety precautions for reopening of schools after issue of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines for unlock-5, on 5th October, 2020. Part I of these guidelines refers to the health and safety aspects for reopening schools. These are based on the prevailing instructions of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Education with regard to health and safety protocols, and are to

be implemented by adopting/adapting in accordance with the local situation in all states/UTs. Part-II of the Guidelines refers to learning with physical/social distancing and the academic aspects that are to be taken care of with regard to the delivery of education, such as, curriculum transactions, instructional load, timetables, assessment, etc. after schools reopen. These guidelines can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/SOP_Guidelines_for_reopening_schools_0.pdf

Further, University Grant Commission (UGC) has also framed “Guidelines for Re-opening the Universities and Colleges Post lockdown due to COVID-19 Pandemic” which provide in detail the measures to be taken before re-opening of campuses. The guidelines may be adopted by the institutions as per the local conditions and directives of the Governments authorities.

(d) The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and family Welfare guidelines regarding COVID-19 pandemic and Vaccines Administration has been forwarded to States and UTs for compliance and active support.
