

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021**

Re-opening of Schools

3296. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is in agreement with ICMR's suggestion to reopen schools, particularly primary schools, since 57.2 per cent of children between the ages of 6-9 already have considerable antibodies based on recent sero-surveys;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has issued indicative timelines based on various parameters and conditions required to be followed by the States at the district level to facilitate reopening;
- (d) if so, the expected date of re-opening of schools; and
- (e) whether various experts have raised serious concerns regarding the adverse impact that prolonged school closures on the physical, social and mental well-being of children, including access to basic nutrition under various meal schemes and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d) 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 and coaching institutions, 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. MHA issued order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 27th May, 2021 to ensure compliance to the containment measure for COVID-19, as conveyed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) D.O Letter dated 25-04-2021. Wherein it has been advised that the decision on where and when to go for large Containment Zone(CZ) has to be evidence based and done at the State/UT level after proper analysis of the situation. However, in order to

facilitate objective, and epidemiologically sound decision making, the following broad-based framework is provided to aid States/UTs in selection of districts/areas:

S.No.	Parameter	Thresholds
1	Test positivity	Test positivity of 10% or more in the last one week.
Or		
2	Bed Occupancy	Bed Occupancy of more than 60% on either supported or ICU beds

The areas so identified for intensive action and local containment will primarily focus on many strategic areas of intervention including prohibition of academic gatherings.

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

The States/UTs wise status of reopening of schools is annexed.

(e) The spread of COVID-19 pandemic has also had a severe impact on school education. Schools in many States and Union Territories have been closed as a precautionary measure to protect the students from Novel COVID-19 (Corona) virus. This has interrupted the learning and led to disruption of education system in the country. However, during COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Education has held continuous consultations with the states and UTs at various levels to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the 'Manodarpan' initiative is covering a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing during the COVID outbreak and beyond. Under such extraordinary circumstances, the Central Government decided to provide Mid-Day Meal to meet the nutritional requirements of the eligible children under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in order to safeguard their immunity. The State Governments and Union Territories are advised to provide to every eligible child, hot cooked Mid-Day Meal or Food Security Allowance, consisting of quantity of the food grains as per entitlement of the child and cooking cost prevailing in the State, whichever is feasible, till such time their schools are closed due to Novel COVID-19 (Corona) Virus and also during summer vacation in 2020-21.

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PART(a) TO (d) OF THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3296 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DR. SHASHI THAROOR REGARDING "RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS"

Status of States / UTs – Reopening Schools (As on 02nd August 2021)

States where Schools have reopened/ re-opening	Classes Reopened/ Re-opening	Date of Re-opening	States where Schools have not reopened
Andhra Pradesh (Tentative)	9 th to 12 th	16.08.2021	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Haryana	9 th to 12 th	16.07.2021	Assam
Lakshadweep	All classes	1 st week of August 2021	Arunachal Pradesh
Pudduchery (Tentative)	All classes	01.08.2021	Bihar
Nagaland	11 th & 12 th	26.07.2021	Chandigarh
Punjab	10 th to 12 th	02.08.2021	Chhattisgarh
Uttarakhand	10 th to 12 th	02.08.2021	Delhi
Himachal Pradesh	10 th to 12 th	02.08.2021	Dnd - Dnh
			Goa
			Gujarat
			Jammu And Kashmir
			Jharkhand
			Karnataka
			Kerala
			Ladakh
			Madhya Pradesh
			Maharashtra
			Meghalaya
			Manipur
			Mizoram
			Odisha
			Rajasthan
			Sikkim
			Tamil Nadu
			Telangana
			Tripura
			Uttar Pradesh
			West Bengal
Total States/UTs Re-opened/Re-opening =08			Total States/UTs not Reopening =28

