

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2940
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

Use of Schools as COVID Hotspots

2940. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many schools across the country are turning out to be COVID hotspots; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of students and teachers in such schools?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (b) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The opening and closing of schools are within the purview of State Governments and UT Administrations. 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. These guidelines have been revised vide letter 17th December, 2021. These guidelines can be accessed at following links respectively.

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

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

Further, a campaign titled “Public Health Response to Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour” was organised in all schools across the country. In this regard, a virtual meeting was held with States, UTs and other stakeholders on 1.10.2020 to create awareness about the campaign. A Covid Action Plan was prepared and shared with States and UTs for implementation in all schools. The action plan included suggested roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders for the campaign. All States and UTs were requested to implement the plan by appointing Nodal Officer at State and district level, organising communication drive in all schools, conducting virtual PTA meetings and incorporating COVID appropriate behaviour in classroom transactions.
