

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 48
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

Prohibition of Enrollment of Student below 16 years in Coaching Centres

48. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the Government has issued new set of guidelines which prohibit coaching centres from enrolling students below 16 years of age;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the prohibition of enrollment of students below 16 years reduces the psychological pressure them;
- (d) the other guidelines issued by the Government and how are these different from the earlier guidelines; and
- (e) whether the Government ensure that coaching centres will strictly follow the new guidelines?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (e): Keeping in view the growth in number of unregulated private coaching centers in the country in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation; instances of such centers charging exorbitant fees from students; undue stress on students resulting in students committing suicides and many other malpractices being adopted by these centres; Ministry of Education has circulated a Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centers to States/UTs on 16.01.2024 for consideration by way of appropriate legal framework. The guidelines, inter-alia, recommends for non-enrolment of students below 16 years of age or the student enrolment should be only after secondary school examination.

While recognizing the current nature of secondary school exams, including Board exams and entrance exams, the resulting coaching culture of today and its harmful impact and suggesting reform in the existing system of Board and entrance examinations to eliminate the need for undertaking coaching classes, National Education Policy 2020 focuses on regular formative assessment for learning rather than the summative assessment that encourages today's 'coaching culture. It also suggests introducing greater flexibility, student choice, and best-of-two attempts,

assessments that primarily test core capacities and develop further viable models of Board Exams that reduce pressure and the coaching culture.

Additionally, the Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centers provides that the coaching centers shall conduct coaching classes in a way that it is not excessive for a student. It also provides that the coaching classes for those students who are also studying in institutions / schools shall not be conducted during their institutions / schools' hours, so that their regular attendance in such institutions / schools remains unaffected and also to avoid dummy schools.

While earlier State and UT Governments were requested vide letters/advisories dated 04.04.2017, 14.08.2019 and 24.12.2020 to take necessary action for regulation of the coaching centers in their jurisdiction through appropriate legal framework, to ensure safety and security of students and avoid unnecessary exploitation, the guidelines circulated vide letter dated 16.01.2024 comprehensively cover the issues related to regulation of coaching centres.

Education being in the concurrent list, the State and UT Governments need to take further action by way of appropriate legal framework.
