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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2376

ANSWERED ON 15/12/2025

Guidelines for Teachers during Weather Emergencies

2376. Smt. Smita Uday Wagh:

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Shri Janardan Mishra:

Shri Shivmangal Singh Tomar:

Shri Balabhadra Majhi:

Shri Dharambir Singh:

Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai:

Smt. Kamaljeet Sehrawat:

Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat:

Shri Khagen Murmu:

Shri Kanwar Singh Tanwar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued any national guidelines permitting teachers to work from home during severe weather conditions such as heavy rains, red alerts, or flooded roads when schools suspend physical classes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, whether the Government proposes to formulate such emergency-response guidelines to ensure academic continuity and teacher safety and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the current status of implementation of school-safety measures, including installation of CCTV systems, voice/sound-recording mechanisms and digital monitoring across Government and private schools in the country;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in co-ordination with States and UTs across the country to ensure children are not over-burdened academically, strengthen mental-health support in schools, training for teachers to detect early sign of stress/distress and timely intervention for the same including establishment of counselling services in schools:
- (e) the details of specific measures being planned by the Government to ensure school-safety infrastructure, psychological counsellor availability and technology-enabled learning in the

Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, especially considering frequent extreme weather disruptions in rural belts; and

(f) whether the Government proposes to introduce a uniform framework to ensure child safety, psychological well-being and uninterrupted learning during climate-related disruptions, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SH. JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of respective State Government and UT Administration. Guidelines issued by Ministry of Education are advisory in nature and States/UTs are expected to implement them and they may incorporate additions/modifications to them, according to their specific requirements.

The Ministry of Education has issued a latest directive on 26th July 2025 to all States and Union Territories to take urgent steps to ensure the student safety and well-being. This refers to the "Guidelines on School Safety and Security" (2021) and the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety (NDMA, 2016) issued on 27.02.2017 and includes safety audits of schools and child-related facilities as per national safety codes, training for staff and students in emergency preparedness, and the provision of psychosocial support through counselling and peer networks. The Ministry has urged Education Departments, School Boards, and affiliated authorities to act without delay in implementing these measures. The directives available link: are on the https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/ss2607.pdf

Further, the Ministry of Education on 7th August 2025, has directed all States/UTs to ensure the structural safety of school buildings and urgent identification of unsafe and dilapidated school buildings through safety audits, followed by demolition, if required or repair of structurally unsafe structures, and prohibition of use, until certified safe. Authorities are advised to arrange temporary schooling where needed, gainfully use the space created due to demolition, ensure regular monitoring and reporting, and ensure safety/ structural fitness compliance certification for any re-occupancy. States/ UTs are instructed to strictly enforce the above measures and avoid any further injuries and loss of life due to preventable failures. The directives the link: infrastructure are available on https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/update/ss07008.pdf

Earlier, Government of India has issued various guidelines for ensuring safety and security of children in schools, as under: -

- 1. Guidelines on School Safety and Security by Department of School Education and Literacy issued on 01.10.2021. These guidelines are uploaded on the website of DoSEL at https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/guidelines_sss.pdf
- 2. Guidelines on School Safety Policy by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA, 2016) issued on 27.02.2017. These guidelines are available at the link: https://dsel.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/rte/Guidelines feb.pdf
- 3. NCPCR examined and compiled different guidelines and developed a comprehensive manual titled- "Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools" dated 26.02.2018. The manual is available at the link: https://ncpcr.gov.in/uploads/165604923562b54e531fe87 manual-on-safety-and-security-of-children-in-schools-sep-2021-2465-kb.pdf

These guidelines *interalia* contain provisions for ensuring the safety and security of children in schools and fixing the accountability of various stakeholders and different departments. Also these guidelines aim to foster collaboration among stakeholders for a safe school environment, raise awareness of existing safety policies, clarify roles in implementation, assign accountability for child safety during school activities and transportation, and enforce a strict 'Zero Tolerance Policy' against negligence.

The NDMA guidelines provide for monitoring of implementation of the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy on designated activities like conducting safety audits, annual mock drills, installation of fire-extinguishers, training of students and teachers in school safety and disaster preparedness, adherence to safety norms with respect to storage of inflammable and toxic material and grant of recognition certificate only to those schools that comply with structural safety norms specifically pertain to fire safety.

(c): As per the provisions in National Commission For Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Manual at Clause 1(X) on safety and security of children in schools, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) vide Notification No. CBSE/AFF./Notification/2025/01310 dated 21.07.2025 has directed all the heads of its affiliated schools to install high resolution CCTV Cameras with audio-visual facility in school's premises.

CBSE vide Notification No. CBSE/AFF./Notification/2025/01310 dated 21.07.2025 has made the following amendment in its Affiliation Bye Laws-2018 by adding Clause 4.7.10 in Chapter 4 (Physical Infrastructure):

"The school should install high resolution CCTV Cameras with audio visual facility at all the entry and exit points of the school, lobbies, corridors, Staircases, all the classrooms, labs, library, Canteen Area, store room, playground and other common areas except toilets and washrooms with real time audio-visual recording. These CCTV Cameras must be equipped with a storage device with the capacity of holding footage of at-least 15 days. It shall be ensured that a backup of a minimum 15 days be preserved, which may be accessed by the authorities, if required."

(d) to (f): The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises the need to create awareness about the mental health issues, reducing stress and promoting joyful learning. States and UTs including State Government of Haryana i.e. Bhiwani-Mahendragarh are supported under Samagra Shiksha based on their proposals towards strengthening of existing Government schools for creation & augmentation of infrastructure facilities and also other activities such as career guidance, mental health, self-defence etc. States/UTs and all management schools, including private schools, are encouraged to provide this facility as per the requirement. States/UTs are free to have their own guidelines for recruitments and also use Samagra Shiksha funds or their own funds.

As per the perspective of NEP 2020, NCERT has developed and launched National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) 2022 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023. Both the NCFs integrate the mental well-being of students in different aspects such as syllabi development, development of content in learning and teaching material, pedagogical practices etc. The framework also lays emphasis on the role of all stakeholders, teachers, school functionaries, parents and community members to ensure that every student is provided with mental and emotional support. The framework also stresses the importance of socio-emotional stimulation in the early years of life of students and provides guidelines towards integration of age-appropriate aspects of socio-emotional development in its curricular goals, core competencies and learning outcomes.

Manodarpan is an initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE) under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, aimed at providing psychosocial support to students, teachers, and families for mental health and emotional well-being during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The details can be accessed at https://manodarpan.education.gov.in

The Ministry of Education, Government of India has also published PRAGYATA guidelines (Planning, Reviewing, Arranging, Guiding, Yak(Talk), Assigning, Tracking and Appreciating) Guidelines on 14th July 2020 with an aim to improve online education and ensure the safety and academic welfare of the students. The PRAGYATA guidelines recommends parents to actively engage with their children and monitor their physical & mental well-being, watching for signs of anxiety, depression, or anger during digital learning, and being attentive to secretive online behavior. Open communication about internet use, instruction on hygiene/healthy lifestyle practices (using digital resources), and a balance of online time with offline play and physical activities are essential.

Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) is an interactive program, wherein students, parents, teachers across the nation interact with Hon'ble Prime Minister to discuss and overcome the stress, emerging out of examinations. In PPC programme 2025, more than 5 crore students across diverse socio-economic backgrounds, especially those from rural and remote areas participated through a combination of outreach efforts by coordinating at all levels with the State and Centre Government. Extensive activities related to PPC, such as reduction in exam stress through activities encouraging physical and emotional well-being, were carried out throughout Bharat, over a period of 10 days from 13th January - 23rd January, 2025. Mental health and its related issues including emotional well-being was one of the major topics covered in recently held PPC which was disseminated on electronic and digital platforms across the country.

In addition to address the rise in stress, anxiety etc among students' various initiatives are taken by many schools - like sensitization through talks in morning assembly, adolescence education programmes, yoga, games and sports, scouts and guides, NCC, Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat. Students are also involved in setting up School Nutrition Gardens (SNGs) in the school through which they are connected to nature.

The Ministry of Education implements ICT and Digital initiatives under Samagra Shiksha to enhance digital learning and in Government schools across the country. The initiatives aim to enhance the quality of education and ensure uninterrupted learning by integrating technology into learning and teaching processes.
