

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:785
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
SEXUAL ABUSE IN SCHOOLS
Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently held discussions with the State Governments regarding violence and sexual abuse in schools;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check violence and sexual abuse in schools?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): School Education being in the Concurrent List, it is responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to prevent violence and sexual abuse in schools. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) being an all India secondary school education board has made several provisions in its affiliation bye-laws to prevent violence and sexual abuse in affiliated schools. These include empowering the school Managing Committee to place an employee under suspension if he/she is charged with cruelty with any student of the school; prescribing that gender specific violence is checked in accordance with the norms stipulated in the Visakha case; implementing the Adolescence Education Programme at secondary level from class IX onwards as part of the co-curricular activities; making value education compulsory in the curricula and sensitizing students about gender issues.

In addition, the CBSE has also published an educator manual for gender sensitive pedagogy and introduced an elective course 'Human Rights and Gender Studies' for class XI and XII. Further, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has also written to all the State Governments in January, 2013 to ensure gender sensitization by emphasizing that curriculum and text books be re-examined and improved for gender positive materials; at least a 2-3 day gender module be conducted with all teachers during the Annual in-service Training programmes; school monitoring systems incorporate a check list of such gender sensitive parameters that promote gender sensitivity in class room transaction and school extra curricular activities; and from upper primary classes, physical education classes include training in self defence for girls.

Further, CBSE has also circulated in March 2013 the Gazette Notification dated 14.11.2012 issued by the Ministry of Women & Child Development along with the rules framed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 to all the CBSE affiliated schools for implementation.