

1	2	3
North Eastern	17.24	25.54
Northeast Frontier	53.90	77.50
North Western	15.94	37.77
Southern	58.71	71.56
South Central	94.76	124.71
South Eastern	43.15	69.62
Southeast Central	49.65	79.25
South Western	36.07	41.48
Western	64.69	61.09
West Central	27.81	52.17
Metro	11.24	18.78
TOTAL	835.06	1101.95

Heavy school bags

*620. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether carrying of heavy school bags causes adverse effect on the health of students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the weight of school bags prescribed by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS);

(d) whether weight of school bags of children studying in Government, aided and private schools in Delhi is more than the weight prescribed by KVS and, if so, by how much; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that the weight of school bags is not more?

THE MINISTR OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has not conducted such a study. However,

Government is aware of such a survey conducted by the School Development Foundation of ASSOCHAM, which shows that heavy school bags result in back and spinal stress among elementary school children.

(c) Weight of school bags prescribed by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) *vide* circular dated 29.12.2009 is as under:

- (i) In class I & II the weight of books and notebooks will not be more than 2kg. including the school bag.
- (ii) In class III & IV the admissible weight will be upto 3 kg.
- (iii) In class V-VII the weight will not exceed 4 kgs.
- (iv) From class VIII to XII the weight will not exceed 6 kg.

(d) No such study has been conducted by the Government in respect of schools in Delhi.

(e) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has not recommended any textbook for early childhood education, only two books (Language and Mathematics) for Class I & II, and three books for Class III to V (Language, EVS and Mathematics) are prescribed by it. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued circulars dated 04.05.2006 and 17.04.2007 on "Reducing the Bag Load on Children" to all the CBSE affiliated schools that *inter-alia* asks CBSE affiliated schools to:

- (i) use the textbooks prescribed by NCERT;
- (ii) in case the schools use books other than NCERT books (for elementary classes), the number of these books should not exceed the numbers prescribed by NCERT; and
- (iii) restrict the number of textbooks prescribed for students especially at primary level.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Changes in RKVY

†4651. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.