



New Delhi,
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NCPCR DIRECTS SCHOOLS TO ENSURE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has taken note of the recent deaths of school children in Delhi, Bhopal, Ranchi and Karnataka due to lack of adequate safety and security measures and directed the authorities to take appropriate steps so that no such incidents take place in future. The Commission has taken cognizance of these incidents as per the provisions of the Commission for Protection Child Rights Act, 2005.

As a follow up, the Commission held a meeting on Monday (14/03/16) with different Ministries, Departments of the Government and organizations to review the existing guidelines on Safety and Security of children in Schools. It was decided that comprehensive guidelines on Safety and Security of children in Schools would be prepared by an expert group.

Member, NCPCR, Shri Priyank Kanoongo informed in the meeting that the Commission has written to Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to include child safety and security as a separate theme in the upcoming New Education Policy and the Commission will also provide its recommendations on New Education Policy to the MHRD based on regional consultations being organized by the Commission. He also observed that though schools are providing different kind of co-curricular activities such as horse riding, swimming, skating, they are not aware of the safety procedures.

Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Stuti Kacker emphasized that verification of all staff should be done by each school before appointing their staff. She informed the meeting that the Commission has written to all the Education Boards in the country suggesting that all newly-selected candidates should be asked by the schools to provide affidavits to the educational institution that they have not been accused of any offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

Member, NCPCR, Shri Yashwant Jain, said that school curriculum should be such that it promotes awareness among children against any kind of abuse and also their safety and security.

Ms. Rupa Kapoor, Member, NCPCR suggested that facilities like proper school building and drinking water should be available in all schools besides, mandatory counseling cells.

Delegates and officials from different Ministries/Departments/Organizations like MHRD, Ministry of Road and Transport, CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, National Disaster Management Authority(NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), Sports Authority of India, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Central Institute of Psychiatry(CIP), Ranchi, Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS besides NCPCR attended the meeting.

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