



Archana Sharma Awasthi
Joint Secretary (SS-1 & AE)
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D.O.3-9/2025-IS-12

Dated the 7th August, 2025

Dear Madam/Sir,

Kindly refer to this Department's D.O. letter of even number 26th July, 2025 (copy enclosed) regarding the critical issue of school safety in light of some recent tragic incidents in schools. As highlighted in the Department of School Education and Literacy's "Guidelines on School Safety and Security - 2021" as well as the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety (NDMA, 2016), the structural integrity of school buildings is fundamental to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff.

2. In continuation, we urge you to further take the following urgent and comprehensive actions to ensure the safety of children and all school stakeholders:

- i. **Urgent Identification:** All States/UTs must undertake an immediate assessment of all government, government-aided and private school buildings, focusing on identification of not-in-use dilapidated school structures through safety audits as per national guidelines.
- ii. **Demolition/Repair:** Wherever any school building or part thereof is found to be unsafe or in violation of structural safety standards, prompt steps must be taken for its **immediate repair, retrofitting, or, if necessary, demolition** to prevent any risk to children, staff, or other community members. Schools found with unsafe structures should not be used for conduct of classes under any circumstances until they are certified as safe by competent authorities.
- iii. The space after demolition can be planned to be gainfully used for various activities of school like Playground, Poshan Vatika, vocational skill, etc.
- iv. **Temporary Arrangements:** In cases where demolition or major repairs are being undertaken, States/UTs may arrange for temporary safe alternative premises to ensure continuity of education.
- v. **Regular Monitoring & Reporting:** The District Education Officer and local authorities must regularly monitor the progress of such repairs/demolitions, and submit monthly reports to the State Department as well as to the SDMA/DDMA concerned.
- vi. **Compliance Certificate:** Fresh occupancy/use of repaired/newly constructed school buildings must only be permitted after obtaining the necessary safety/structural fitness certification from a qualified engineer or authority as mandated by guidelines.

3. In view of above, your urgent intervention is solicited to instruct all concerned field and engineering agencies to strictly enforce the above measures and avoid any further injuries and loss of life due to preventable infrastructure failures. This initiative should be given highest priority at all levels, and non-compliance may attract action under relevant provisions.

4. This has the approval of Competent Authority.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Archana

(Archana Sharma Awasthi)

To

Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary Education,
All States/UTs

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Shiksha Mantri
2. Secretary (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education
3. Chief Secretary of all States/UTs for favor & necessary action
4. Heads of KVS/NVS/CBSE/NCERT for similar action
5. All BHs for information