

'CBSE schools must follow state government fee norms'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: R K Chaturvedi, the chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), who was in Gandhinagar on Saturday to meet representatives of CBSE schools from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, said that fees charged by schools affiliated to the central board should follow norms fixed by respective state governments.

"Our affiliation bylaws say the fee should be commensurate with infrastructure and facilities offered by the school. The quantum of fee should be on par with the (respective) state government's norms," Chaturvedi said, speaking to reporters at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) in Bhat village, Gandhinagar.

Chaturvedi further said that the information on fees should be put in public domain and logical explanation should be given as to the basis of charging fees.

Chaturvedi's statement comes when CBSE schools have moved the Gujarat high court against the state government's decision to regu-



R K Chaturvedi, CBSE Chairman (L) and Sunil Shukla, EDII director

late fees of all private schools, including the CBSE-affiliated ones, through the Gujarat Self-Financed Schools (Regulation of Fees) Act, 2017.

The state government had in April introduced the act to regulate fees charged by private schools through fee regulatory committees. The annual fee limits prescribed in the act for primary, secondary and higher secondary schools are Rs15,000, Rs25,000 and Rs27,000, respectively.

Chaturvedi also said that CBSE is thinking of giving accreditation to its affiliated schools on the lines of accreditations given by universities.

"We are discussing norms for accreditation. It will decide where the school

stands in terms of quality, through a third-party evaluation. It will be then easy for parents to decide how one school is better than the other," he said.

However, Chaturvedi did not divulge whether the accreditation will be done by a government agency or independent one.

"Results, quality of education, parents' and teachers' satisfaction, retention of teachers, index of happiness, infrastructure, fee, sports. All these parameters will form the basis of evaluating schools. We will begin the process from this academic year and implement it by next year," he said.

Chaturvedi also met representatives of CBSE schools from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and discussed with them the board's decision to do away with school-based examination in Class X, and addition of applied entrepreneurship as a vocational subject for Classes XII and XII.

"We want to associate ourselves with EDII in regard to additional vocational courses. The concept has been accepted, and details are being worked out," he said.