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S Suresh Kumar, Education Minister

Education Minister Suresh Kumar speaks to the media in Bengaluru on Tuesday I VINOD KUMAR T

NO PUBLIC EXAMS FOR CLASS 7, ONLY CCE IN MARCH: EDU MINISTER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE



TO ensure that students studying the state syllabus are well prepared for the Class 10 SSLC exams, Education Minister S Suresh Kumar on Tuesday said that Class 7 students will write the comprehensive continuous evaluation exam (CCE) this March, instead of their usual final exams.

Though the question paper will be set by the state government, it will not be a public exam. The students will be assessed on their learning ability and promoted to Class 8. The answer scripts of students will not be evaluated by the school teachers but by district-level evaluators, just like board exams, he said. He was speaking to media versons after holding a meeting with education department of ficials in the city on Tuesday.

An education department official said that this was like final exams being conducted in schools. "So far, school teachers evaluated students and they ensured that students just pass, because they wanted to show results. But now, the department is emphasising on learning. It has been decided that this year, the question paper will be prepared based on a six-month syllabus. From next year on, the

question paper will be prepared based on the entire year's syllabus," the official said.

The minister added that the exercise was to inculcate a sense of confidence among students. He said that the idea was to zero in on where the student was lacking in terms of subjects. He added that it would also help ascertain if teachers need to be trained better, if there was a problem with the teachers. The minister stated that the format of the question paper and the marks for assessment were being finalised and will be announced in a week's time.

He said that the need for such an exam arose when he interacted with students and attended classes. When a mock examination was conducted in Kalaburagi, it was found that children needed help in Mathematics and Science. In come districts of North Karnataka, children faced a problem while understanding and writing languages, especially Kannada. In a meeting with the principals of PUC colleges, the minister also observed that students did not fare well in academics. Also, children in Class 10 were forced to attend private tuitions to do well in their exams. "This just adds to the pressure and children lose confidence. So, this exercise will only help students," he said.



Kelpline for children

Minister Suresh Kumar also announced that by March 31, the education department will launch a helpline, where teachers, students. parents and experts will be present to resolve queries and give clarifications. Decisions were taken on the soon to be launched Karnataka State Teachers Benefit Fund, Karnataka State Students Welfare Fund and National Forum for Teacher Welfare Foundation. //