

Govt puts Vidyagama on hold after 34 students test positive

47 lakh students benefitting from programme: Minister

BENGAURU, DHNS

The state government on Saturday decided to suspend the Vidyagama scheme temporarily following reports that 34 students tested positive for the Covid-19.

Vidyagama is a scheme launched by the department of Primary and Secondary Education to reach out to students of the government schools during the pandemic following the uncertainty over reopening of schools.

In a communication to media, Primary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar on Saturday said, "Direction has been given to the principal secretary to temporarily withhold the scheme."

The decision came a day after reports said that 34 students in Belagavi and Kalaburagi districts tested positive for Covid-19. In his first reaction to the news in the morning, the minister said that a report had been sought from officials to assess the risk students and teachers are



A file photo of the teachers imparting lesson to students under Vidyagama scheme.

exposed to while participating in the Vidyagama scheme across the state.

"We will get reports from across the state to know whether the children tested positive because of the teachers. Ultimately, no programme is more important than the health of children

and teachers. We will take a decision about Vidyagama based on the report from each district," he stated, adding that the department will seek to know the cause of infections.

The minister also said that as many as 47 lakh children were benefit-

ting from the scheme and so far there was no confirmation about children being infected during Vidyagama.

"Vidyagama is a scientifically designed programme for the benefit of children from socially weaker sections to continue learning and it has turned as model for the country. There should not be any doubts about the safety measures followed in the implementation of the programme," he said.

Meanwhile Marilingegowda Mali Patil, a social activist, filed a complaint before Governor Vajubhai Vala against Minister Suresh Kumar requesting the Governor to issue directions to the government to suspend Vidyagama scheme considering the loss of lives due to Covid-19.

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RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS
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