

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1955
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2022

Changes made in NCERT books

1955 Shri Pramod Tiwari:

Shri John Brittas :

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding changes made in Central and State Board school books during the last five years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that information regarding Gujarat riots, Mughal rule in the country, Naxalite movement and certain Dalit writers, among other things, have been removed from NCERT books under a 'rationalisation' process;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if so, what was the criteria used to determine the information to be removed from the books; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve school education during the last five years?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT.ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a): The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), as a regular activity, update their textbooks before these are reprinted every year by incorporating new priorities and initiatives occurred at the National level. In 2017-18, NCERT undertook this exercise and updated data in view of the then latest available databases such as census survey, etc. In 2018-19, NCERT, on the basis of suggestions received from various stakeholders, rationalized content of the textbooks in all the subject areas across the classes. In 2020-21, changes with regard to data, etc., were included as regular exercise. In 2021-22, to deal with the academic situation arising from the pandemic, major exercise of rationalization of content of textbooks was undertaken.

(b) and (c): During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, students across the stages of school education have struggled a lot to continue their learning through online and other modes. Also, concerns related to curriculum load including the content load spread over syllabi and textbooks have been raised from different corners. Further, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 states that ‘the reduction in content and increased flexibility of school curriculum and the renewed emphasis on constructive rather than rote learning must be accompanied by parallel changes in school textbooks’. With a view to facilitate speedy recovery in students learning continuum and compensating time loss, NCERT took a step towards the rationalisation of textbooks across the stages and subject areas, keeping a balanced approach. The details are available at <https://ncert.nic.in/rationalised-content.php>

(d) NCERT has informed that the following criteria were developed for the rationalisation of content load:

- a. Overlapping with similar content included in other subject area in the same class;
- b. Similar content included in the lower or higher class in same subject;
- c. Difficulty level;
- d. Content, which is easily accessible to children and does not require much intervention from the teachers and can be learned through self-learning or peer learning;
- e. Content, which is not relevant in the present context or outdated;
- f. Taking care of the Learning Outcomes already developed across the classes.

(e) Some of major steps taken to improve the school education in last five years are as under:

- a. Development of Learning Outcomes for across the classes from class 1-12.
- b. Design and Development of an integrated programme of capacity building for teachers, teacher educators and education functionaries entitled ‘National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement’ – NISHTHA. Till now NISHTHA for elementary, secondary, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and also for ECCE has been launched.
- c. National Achievement Survey in 2017 and 2021 to check the health of education system and provide necessary interventions to fill-up the gaps.
- d. Bridge Course for the elementary stage.
- e. Variety teaching-learning resources and e-content across the stages for supporting students, teachers and teacher educators.
- f. Experiential and joyful learning.

- g. Alternative Academic Calendar during Covid-19.
- h. Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy through National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy - NIPUN Bharat.
- i. Introduction of Structured Assessment for Analysing Learning (SAFAL), a Competency Based Education and Assessment for Grades 3,5 and 8 to assess core concepts, application of knowledge, and higher order thinking skills.
- j. Introduction of 360, multidimensional Holistic Progress Card that reflects in great detail the progress as well as the uniqueness of each learner in the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains.
