

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2252**  
**ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023**

**Removal of lessons from NCERT Text books**

2252 **SHRI VAIKO:**  
**SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:**

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

- (a) whether on the pretext of reducing curriculum, many historical, social movements and factual lessons were removed from NCERT school textbooks, starting from this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that because of this, some academicians have protested and requested for removal of their names as chief advisors, especially in Political Science books from Class 9 to 12; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has informed that rationalization of NCERT textbooks was done in 2021-22.

Due to the COVID- 19 pandemic situation, students across all the stages of school education have faced considerable challenges to continue their learning through online and other modes. In the normal course of things, concerns related to curriculum load including the content load and textbooks, were raised from different corners. In addition, the Parliamentary Standing Committee too had raised concerns about the content overload in the textbooks. In order to facilitate speedy recovery from the learning losses, in their learning continuum and compensate

for the time loss, NCERT took steps towards the rationalization of textbooks across the stages and subject areas.

NCERT has rationalized the content of some textbooks including Social Science (Social and Political Life) for classes 6 to 8 and Political Science for classes 9 to 12.

Specific criteria were developed for the rationalisation of content load, which is given below:

- i. Overlapping with similar content included in other subject areas in the same class.
- ii. Similar content included in the lower or higher class in same subject.
- iii. High difficulty level.
- iv. 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.
- v. Content, which is not relevant in the present context or outdated.
- vi. Learning outcomes already developed across the classes are taken care of in this rationalization exercise.

NCERT, as the copy-right owner of all its textbooks, adopts clear procedures to make corrections/changes from time to time. Changes have been made in NCERT textbooks by constituting a committee of experts in the respective subject areas. These committees comprising of NCERT faculty members, in consultation with practising teachers from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and experts, analysed the textbooks across subjects and classes for rationalising the content.

The members of original Textbook Development Committees (TDCs) were not involved in the rationalisation process as these committees are no longer in existence. The terms of these TDCs have ended since the date of the first publication of the textbooks i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Clarifications on some of the issues raised in various quarters regarding rationalisation of textbooks are already placed on the NCERT website <https://ncert.nic.in/rationalisation-textbook.php>.

\*\*\*\*\*