

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

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2254
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

Removal of chapters from NCERT textbooks

2254 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

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

- (a) whether Government still considers the need to rationalize the content of NCERT textbooks due to Covid-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether Government has justification to specifically remove the chapters of 'Democracy', 'Challenges to Democracy', 'Periodic Classification of Element' and full page of 'political parties, if so, the justification thereon;
- (c) whether Government is willing to reinstate these chapters in the short run, if so, when will Government reinstate this; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that NCERT has dropped mention of Maulana Azad India's First Education Minister from Class 11 Textbook, if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c) 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 in continuing their learning through online and other modes. In the normal course of events, 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 of students, NCERT took steps towards the rationalization of textbooks across the stages and subject areas. Learning loss caused due to prolonged closure of schools during

Covid-19 pandemic has continued in the post pandemic period thereby affecting the learning process. Further, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) is under finalization. Keeping this fact in mind the rationalized textbooks were continued.

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.

(d) There have been no changes made in the Textbook of Class XI Political Science, 'Indian Constitution at Work' during the process of rationalization of 2022-23. With regard to the reference to Shri Maulana Azad in the class XI Textbook, it is stated that the textbook for the session 2014-15 was finalised for printing in October, 2013, at which time, the name of Shri Maulana Azad was deleted from the para with regard to chairing of Major Committees.
