

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

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 663
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

Changes made by NCERT in syllabus

663 Dr. John Brittas:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that NCERT has recently made a plethora of changes in its syllabus for various classes;
- (b) whether such changes also include removal of certain texts related to Mughal era, Delhi Sultanate, dislike of Hindu extremist organisations for Mahatma Gandhi and banning of RSS;
- (c) if so, class-wise details of changes made in the syllabus;
- (d) the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government took note of the criticism from academia against the changes in the syllabus; and
- (f) if so, response thereto?

ANSWER

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

- (a) NCERT has rationalised the content of its textbooks across the stages. It has not made any change in the syllabus.
- (b) Certain texts were rationalised following the criteria given below-
 - Overlapping with similar content included in other subject areas in the same class.
 - Similar content included in the lower or higher class in same subject.
 - High difficulty level.
 - 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.
 - Content, which is not relevant in the present context or outdated.
- (c) & (d) Class wise changes are already uploaded on the NCERT website. List of rationalised content across the subject areas is available on <https://ncert.nic.in/rationalised-content.php>

During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, students across all stages of school, due to closure of schools, education have struggled to continue their learning through online and other modes. Consequently, a significant learning loss and time loss took place. Further, time and again, concerns related to curriculum and content load across syllabi and textbooks have been raised by different stakeholders. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has also raised concern about the same. Moreover, National Education Policy, 2020, in Paragraph 4.31 states, "*The reduction in content and increased flexibility of the school curriculum—and the renewed emphasis on constructive rather than rote learning—must be accompanied by parallel changes in school textbooks*". Though NCERT is in the process of making new National Curriculum Frameworks, the development of new textbooks may take some time. In order to facilitate speedy recovery in the learning continuum and compensate for the time loss of students, NCERT took steps towards the rationalization of textbooks across the stages and subject areas with the help of experts and teachers.

(e) & (f) NCERT has noted the comments on the changes made through the press and social media. In response, NCERT has explained the rationale behind the rationalization exercise and the basis on which modifications were made. These are publicly available through press releases and social media.
