

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1935
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

Exclusion of Raziya Sultan and Nur Jahan from NCERT's History books

1935 Shri Ritabrata Banerjee:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that references of influential women like Raziya Sultan and Nur Jahan have been removed from NCERT's Class VIII History text books; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) & (b) As a follow up to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023, Curricular Area Groups were constituted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to undertake the development of syllabi and textbooks for school education. Accordingly, the Class VIII Social Science textbook (Part I) has been developed in alignment with the curricular goals and competencies given under NEP, 2020 and NCF-SE, 2023. This new textbook is an integrated Social Science resource, comprising four themes: (1) "India and the World: Land and the People"; (2) "Tapestry of the Past"; (3) "Governance and Democracy"; and (4) "Economic Life Around Us". Tapestry of the Past theme mentions influential women like Rani Durgavati, Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Abbakka I, Begum Hazrat Mahal, etc. The personalities featured in these themes have been included contextually and in accordance with curricular objectives. The textbook introduces new pedagogical approaches, emphasizes refined classroom practices, and presents a focused syllabus.

These textbooks encourage students to explore more through experiential learning, undertaking field work and focus on evidence-based understanding. The approach adopted

for the Middle Stage (Grades 6 to 8) is to provide only a broad survey of Indian civilization from prehistoric times all the way to Independence.

Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and the majority of schools being under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, the respective State Government may adopt or adapt NCERT textbooks or develop their own textbooks based on the National Curriculum Framework. The States have flexibility to provide more coverage about regional personalities and events in their textbooks.
