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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1941
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025

Shortage of NCERT textbooks

1941 **Shri S. Selvaganabathy:**
Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni:
Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara:
Shri Sat Paul Sharma:
Shri Kanad Purkayastha:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortage of NCERT textbooks, particularly in the remote regions;
(b) the steps taken or proposed by Government to ensure timely availability of NCERT textbooks for all students before the commencement of the academic session;
(c) the mechanism in place to ensure pan-India availability of NCERT textbooks; and
(d) whether any monitoring mechanism has been established to track the printing, supply and delivery of textbooks to schools, if so, details thereof?

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

(a) to (d): Availability of textbooks across the country as per academic schedule is ensured by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) through different steps involved in the development and printing of textbooks, procurement of paper and distribution. The following steps have been undertaken to ensure the timely availability of NCERT textbooks:

  i. **Advanced Demand Forecasting:** NCERT collects data from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and state education departments/boards to estimate demand well in advance. To make forecasting more realistic, student enrolment has been taken as the base.

  ii. **Grant of Copyright Permission:** To ensure easy accessibility to quality resources, NCERT has granted copyright permission to various state government agencies and

also provides technical and educational support to develop and print their own textbooks.

iii. **Streamlined Production and Distribution:** To ensure the availability of all titles at all times by optimising available resources such as storage capacity and the distribution network, the print order is divided into phases to ensure continuous supply and minimise delays.

iv. **Empanelment of Printers and high-quality standards:** To expedite printing and maintain quality standards, NCERT has raised the criteria for the empanelment of printers, requiring the latest machinery.

v. **Digital Availability:** NCERT textbooks are made digitally available free of cost in PDF and other formats on the Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform, the NCERT website, and through the e-Pathshala app, ensuring universal access to digital versions.

vi. **Empanelment of Vendors for distribution:** Dedicated booksellers having the experience and capacity to distribute NCERT publications have been empanelled as vendors (bookshops) from different parts of India for the distribution of NCERT textbooks. Nearly 570 vendors are engaged in the sale of NCERT books

vii. **Online sale through NCERT website:** NCERT also provides doorstep delivery in all parts of the country at all PIN codes served by India Post. Students and others desirous of purchasing NCERT textbooks can place orders through the NCERT web portal.

viii. **Collaboration with E-commerce Platforms:** NCERT has engaged major ecommerce platforms like Amazon for faster and wider distribution and to curb unauthorised sales. These platforms serve as dedicated supply chain mechanisms for remote and underserved regions.

NCERT aims to complete the distribution of textbooks before the commencement of the academic session. This is achieved through phased distribution, with priority given to remote and marginalised regions. In recent years, NCERT printed about 5 crore textbooks. For the financial year 2025-26, it has been decided to print about 15 crore textbooks on a continuous basis. To effectively meet the growing demand for NCERT textbooks, a multifaceted approach is implemented, focusing on capacity enhancement, technological integration, strategic partnerships, policy reforms, and feedback-driven planning. This involves expanding storage facilities and enhancing printing capacities to efficiently handle the increased demand for textbooks. Strategic partnerships are established with e-commerce platforms and private logistics providers to facilitate efficient last-mile delivery, ensuring that textbooks reach every corner of the country without delay. This initiative aims to standardise demand, enhance planning accuracy, and eliminate regional disparities in textbook availability. A feedback-driven planning approach is at the core of this strategy, with continuous feedback collected from schools, parents, and vendors. This valuable input helps refine future planning and distribution strategies, making them more responsive to the needs of end users. Collectively, these measures aim to create a robust, efficient supply chain that ensures the timely, uninterrupted availability of NCERT textbooks nationwide.

NCERT has implemented a robust monitoring mechanism that includes an Online Inventory Management System (through a web portal), which provides a centralised facility to track printing status, stock levels, and distribution across all regional centres, strategic distribution centres, and headquarters, ensuring efficient inventory management and informed decision-making. It also enables real-time tracking of consignments, enhancing transparency and reliability in the supply chain. A dedicated portal has been developed and maintained by NCERT for this purpose (www.ncertbooks.ncert@gov.in). Additionally, NCERT maintains continuous communication with all stakeholders, including schools, vendors, and individual students, through this dedicated web portal. This platform facilitates a robust feedback mechanism and periodic reviews, ensuring that any information or complaints regarding shortages of NCERT textbooks in any part of the country are promptly addressed, thereby ensuring smooth and timely availability for all.

****