

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1966
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

North Eastern States in NCERT curriculum

1966 Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering the inclusion of the history, culture and heritage of the North Eastern States in the NCERT curriculum to provide students across the country with a more comprehensive understanding of the region;
- (b) whether Government has initiated any consultation or taken any step in this regard, considering the need to promote awareness of the rich historical and cultural heritage of the North Eastern Region among students nationwide; and
- (c) whether Government has held or proposes to hold consultations with historians, scholars, academicians and subject experts from the North Eastern States for this purpose and, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The guiding principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Frameworks for School Education (NCFSE) 2023 focus on inclusive and equitable quality education for all. The policy document also mentions respect for diversity and respect for local context in all curriculum, pedagogy, and policy. Further, the policy states “Knowledge of India” will include knowledge from ancient India and its contributions to modern India and its successes and challenges, and a clear sense of India’s future aspirations with regard to education, health, environment, etc. These elements will be incorporated in an accurate and scientific manner throughout the school curriculum wherever relevant; in particular, Indian Knowledge Systems, including tribal knowledge and indigenous and traditional ways of learning, will be covered and

included in mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, yoga, architecture, medicine, agriculture, engineering, linguistics, literature, sports, games, as well as in governance, polity, conservation. The policy also mentions multilingualism and the power of language, thereby respecting diversity of languages including the North-East.

As a follow-up to the National Education Policy 2020, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducted district-level consultations across States/UTs, including the North-Eastern States, to deliberate on how the vision and recommendations of NEP 2020 could be translated into the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE). State Focus Groups were also constituted across States/UTs, including the North-Eastern States. These State Focus Groups developed Position Papers, which contributed to and informed the development of the National Curriculum Frameworks. The NCF-SE 2023 recognises the vast diversity of cultural expressions that exist across the length and breadth of India. It emphasises that local arts and cultures should serve as the starting point for Arts Education across all stages of school education.

As per NCF-SE 2023, NCERT has developed new textbooks which incorporate references to the history, culture, traditions, art, heritage and contributions of the North Eastern States, specially from grades 1 to 8, thereby, promoting awareness of the region's rich cultural diversity among students across the country. NCERT has also brought out Grade 6 R3 Language textbooks and Grade 9 age-appropriate Learning Material in 22 languages, including Assamese, Bodo, Manipuri, etc., which reflect the culture of North Eastern states.

NCERT has also been conducting capacity-building programmes across States and UTs, including the North-Eastern States, to promote awareness regarding cultural rootedness, Indian Knowledge Systems and the curricular perspective of NEP 2020 and NCF-SE 2023. The National Syllabus and Teaching-Learning Material Committee and the Curricular Area Groups include representation of experts/scholars, including NCERT faculty members, from the North-Eastern States.
