

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 770
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.11.2016

Yashpal Committee on Education

†770. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken/ proposed to take any steps to review the slow progress of implementation of the Yashpal Committee report regarding easing out education burden of school children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)**

(a) to (c) The issues related to curriculum load raised in the Yash Pal Committee Report (1993) on 'Learning Without Burden' were, *inter-alia*, taken into consideration at the time of framing of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) –2005 by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The NCF sets the guidelines and direction for the development of syllabi and textbooks at all the school stages. As a follow up to the NCF, curriculum, syllabi, text-books and other supplementary material are developed by NCERT. State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and State Education Boards either adopt or adapt NCERT's model syllabi and textbooks or develop their own syllabi and textbooks based on NCF. Education, being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, it is for the respective States/Union Territory Governments to prescribe norms with regard to appropriate weight of School Bags for their schools.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have already taken measures to reduce the weight of school bags. NCERT has not recommended any textbook for early childhood education. It has recommended only two books (Language and Mathematics) for classes I & II and three books for classes III to IV (Language, Environmental Studies and Mathematics). The number and size of NCERT's textbooks used by the primary and secondary school students are appropriate to their age. NCERT has also made available all their textbooks for free access through the web (epathshala.nic.in) and mobile devices. The collections include textbooks for all subjects across all the stages and made available for free download and dissemination. CBSE has directed schools affiliated to it to ensure that students do not carry school bags till class II and also to restrict the number of books to be prescribed in classes I-VIII. It has also issued a circular on 20.7.2015 to ensure that the parents are not forced to buy excessive number of textbooks.
