

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 257
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017**

Textbook Purchase Policy

257. SHRI NINONG ERING:

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

- (a) whether the Government has a textbooks purchase policy by the school students and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for the safeguard of students against the reported school-private textbook companies nexus;
- (c) whether the Government has made it mandatory for the schools affiliated by the Central Government to leave purchasing of the textbooks to the discretion of the students; and
- (d) whether the Government has made it mandatory for the schools to prescribe only NCERT textbooks to students?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Education being a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools being under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is the responsibility of the State Government concerned to formulate guidelines in this regards.

So far as the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated schools are concerned, the Board has not prescribed textbooks for classes I-VIII. As per CBSE Affiliation Bye-Laws, the school are to follow the syllabus on the basis of curriculum prescribed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)/ CBSE and text books published by NCERT for the Middle Classes as far as practicable or exercise extreme care while selecting books of private publishers.

(b) NCERT publishes adequate number of books every year. Regular meetings have been held in the Ministry to review the requirement of NCERT textbooks in CBSE affiliated schools so as to ensure adequate supply of books to these schools. NCERT has launched a portal on 09th August, 2017 to facilitate individuals, schools, States and Union Territories to directly purchase textbooks. NCERT has empanelled 905 vendors across the country for distribution of textbooks. Besides, the NCERT has made available all their textbooks on the web-site: epathshala.nic.in for free access and download.

(c) CBSE has not prescribed any guidelines in this regard for the schools affiliated to it.

(d) No, Madam.
