

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.30
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2019**

Reducing NCERT Syllabus

30. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to reduce NCERT syllabus by half;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;
- (c) the time by which the reduced syllabus is likely to be made effective;
- (d) whether the Government proposes reforms in school education system and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of teachers?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (c) The purpose of education is to bring out a good human being out of the system. For real development along with knowledge, Life Skill education, value education, physical education, experiential learning is essential. Creative skills need to be nurtured. It was demand from all stakeholders that because of heavy curriculum, there is no time left for all these aspects. Also rote learning is not the way forward. Therefore, School Syllabus must be rationalized. To achieve this, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was advised to undertake an exercise to review its syllabus with a view to reducing the curriculum load on the students. Accordingly, NCERT has undertaken review of its textbooks under the initiative of rationalisation of curriculum. They invited suggestions from different stakeholders. About one lakh suggestions were received from around 27 thousand stakeholders. These suggestions have been analysed by a Committee constituted for this purpose. The NCERT textbooks are at different stages of finalization on the basis of the suggestions received and analysed by the Committee.

(d) The Government is in process of formulating a New Education Policy. The exercise of preparing a New Education Policy is still ongoing as the Government has constituted a Committee for preparation of the Draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan. The report of the Committee is awaited.

(e) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), mandated for providing quality teacher education to the prospective teachers, has set norms and standards for infrastructure, instructional facilities and qualification and experience of faculty for the teacher education institutions in which teachers are educated. For this purpose, NCTE has revised its Recognition, Norms and Procedure, Regulations 2014. Further, the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE), now subsumed in Samagra Shiksha, aims to provide infrastructural and institutional support to Government Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs). To emphasize the focus on quality interventions and teacher training, CSSTE provides for programme related interventions such as Capacity Building, Specific projects for academic activities, Induction Training of Teacher Educators, Programme and Activities, Faculty Development and Technology Support, etc., to Teacher Education Institutes, viz., State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), Block Institutes of Education (BITEs), Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs).

Further, Section 23(2) of the RTE Act has been amended to extend the period of in-service training for untrained elementary teachers to 31st March, 2019 in all the States. As per the above amendment, all untrained in-service teachers working in Government, Government- aided, and Private un-aided schools should acquire minimum qualification as laid down by an academic authority, authorized by the Central Government, by 31st March, 2019. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has been entrusted to conduct this training through ODL (Open Distance Learning) mode. The online D.El.Ed. course has been started from 3rd October, 2017. More than 13.7 lakh teachers have joined these courses.

Further, a four year B.Ed integrated course to bring about qualitative improvement in teacher education programmes in India has been conceptualised and regulations for this course has been published in official gazette on 22nd November, 2018. The model curriculum prepared for this course includes crucial aspects like Gender, Inclusive education, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Yoga, Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Health & Sanitation. The teaching specialization would primarily be for the primary levels and the secondary level.
