

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3455**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2015

NCERT Text Books

3455. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a chapter in an NCERT textbook on healthcare in India has become the latest issue of contention between the Indian Medical Association and the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has ordered any probe into this incident; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)**

(a) & (b) The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has mainly objected to the following content on page 26 in the Chapter 2, “Role of the Government in Health”, of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Social Science Textbook for Class VII, *Social and Political Life-II*, under sub-heading “Healthcare and equality”, which was published in February, 2007 and has been in circulation since academic session of 2007-08:

“In order to earn more money, these private services encourage practices that are incorrect. At times, cheaper methods, though available, are not used. For example, it is common to find doctors prescribing unnecessary medicines, injections or saline bottles when tablets or simple medicines can suffice.”

It has also objected to the content on ‘The cost of a cure’ on pages 22-23, which indicates the difference in the cost of treatment in private and Government hospitals.

IMA has filed a Writ Petition before the High Court of Delhi in the same matter. The matter is currently sub-judice.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.