

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1341
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

States Preparing their Own School Curriculum

1341. SHRI A. RAJA:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has been notified as academic authority to frame national curriculum for schools in the country;
- (b) if so, the reason therefor;
- (c) the timeline by which the subject "School Education" will be in the concurrent list;
- (d) the number of States who rejected national curriculum of NCERT and have prepared their own curriculum through State agencies such as SCERT and State Institutes of Education;
- (e) the reason for insisting on NCF by the Government for the States to develop their syllabi and textbooks based on NCF; and
- (f) the reason for which the education policy of the Central Government is imposed on the States which have different cultures, traditions and ethos?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (f) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the Central Government has authorized the National Council of Educational Research and Training as the academic authority to lay down the curriculum and evaluation procedure for elementary education, and to develop a framework of national curriculum under clause (a) of sub-section (6) of Section 7 of the Act. NCF is not a prescriptive document and is suggestive/ recommendatory in nature.

Since Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution; it is for the respective State Government to either adopt or adapt NCERT textbooks or develop their own textbooks based on the NCF. The NCF enables the federal structure of school education, with States ultimately setting their State or regional curricula, easily incorporating local elements. Further, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides that States will prepare their own curricula (which may be based on the NCF for School Education (NCF-SE) prepared by the NCERT to the extent possible), incorporating state flavour and material as needed.