

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:597

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013

REVIEW OF NCERT BOOKS

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

- (a) whether certain contents in the CBSE/NCERT text books had invited controversy in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government to remove those controversial lessons/parts from CBSE/NCERT books;
- (d) whether the Government has set up any committee to review the text books of NCERT from the point of view of identifying educationally inappropriate material and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has received the report of the said committee and if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAMRAJU)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 597 FOR 08.05.2013 ASKED BY SHRI M. KRISHNASSWAMY AND SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN REGARDING REVIEW OF NCERT BOOKS.

(a) & (b) The major issues that were recently received from various quarters are indicated below:

(i) References made to Shri Narayana Guru (Textbook in History for Class VIII-Our Past-III, Part-1).

(ii) References to Nadar Community (Textbook in History for Class IX-India and the Contemporary World-1).

(iii) Reference to two illustrations and related content given in the theme The Central Islamic Lands (Textbook in History for Class XI-Themes in World History).

(iv) Reference made to Mirabai (Textbook in History for Class XII-Themes in Indian History, Part-II).

(v) Objection raised on certain cartoons and other content in Textbook in Political Science for Class IX-XII.

(c) The NCERT carried out necessary changes in the Social Science/History textbooks and the Political Science textbooks.

(d) & (e) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development enjoys academic autonomy in the matter of developing, printing & distribution of its text books. The NCERT had constituted a six member Committee on 14.05.2012 under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.K. Thorat, the then Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for reviewing the text books of Social Science/Political Sciences for the class IX-XII with the following terms of reference:

(i) To review the classes IX-XII Social Science/Political Science textbooks of the NCERT from the point of view of identifying educationally inappropriate materials.

(ii) Providing suggestions for alternatives to be placed in the textbooks so that the material can be immediately made available to the learners concerned.

The NCERT received the report of the Committee on 27.06.2012. The Committee had recommended some changes in the four text books namely, "Democratic Politics I-Class IX", "Democratic Politics II- Class X", "Indian Constitution at work-Class XI" and "Politics in India since Independence – Class XII". In addition, the Committee had also made certain general recommendations to be considered at the time of review of books. The National Monitoring Committee (NMC) constituted to oversee the syllabi and textbooks developed by the NCERT in its meeting held on 17.07.2012 discussed the Thorat Committee Report, and recommended changes in

the textbooks of Political Science. The NMC also decided that the concerned Textbook Development Committee (TDC) would work with the NCERT to suggest changes. The TDC in its meetings during 30th July to 1st August, 2012 recommended necessary changes including deletion of six cartoons in the Political Science textbooks. The NCERT has accordingly, carried out the necessary changes.