

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2350
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
LAPSES IN NCERT TEXT BOOKS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NCERT has reportedly been asked to remove certain references on north-east from the class 10 Geography text book;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such lapses have happened in many text books in recent times; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to prevent such lapses?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b) No Madam. However, a reference was received from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for review of the following sentence on page 92 of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Geography text book for Class X in Chapter 7: "there is vast potential of tourism development in the north-eastern states and the interior parts of Himalayas, but due to strategic reasons these have not been encouraged so far".

The NCERT has informed us that considering pedagogical issues and the stage of school education, the entire paragraph on page No. 92, containing the sentence quoted above, has been modified to make students aware about the vast potential of the tourism industry in India, with emphasis on the North-East region and this revised language is being incorporated in the new editions of the textbook to be printed in future.

(c) & (d) The NCERT publishes 359 textbooks for classes I to XII in Hindi, English and Urdu. Major representations received with regard to certain content in the NCERT textbooks recently are mentioned below:

Reference made to Shri Narayana Guru in the Social Science Textbook in History for Class VIII – Our Past-III, Part 1

Reference to Nadar Community in the Social Science Textbook in History for Class IX – India and the Contemporary World-I

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

Reference made to Mirabai as a wandering singer in the Textbook in History for Class XII – Themes in Indian History, Part- II

Appropriate changes in the aforesaid textbooks were made by NCERT, after following the due procedure. Textbook development involves a rigorous process involving subject experts, practicing teachers and researchers from various institutions across the country.

Every effort is made to ensure that no stereotype or prejudice creeps into the texts and the activities prescribed by the textbooks in any manner. Any objectionable aspect pointed out in any NCERT textbook is taken into serious consideration and dealt academically at the Textbook Development Committee and also at the level of the National Monitoring Committee set up by the Government of India.