

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Monday, May 14, 1979/Vaisakha 24,
1901 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at half past Ten
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Availability of Text Books and change in Syllabus

*1094. CH. HARI RAM MAKKASAR
GODARA: Will the Minister of
EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE
AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in the Capital there has been dearth of text books during the last two years and the syllabus has often been changed to suit the availability of books in the market; and

(b) if so, whether there is no planning for the production of text-books at any stage to avoid playing into the hands of private commercial-minded publishers who in the absence of text books bring out guides for all subjects and sometimes sell the same as prescribed books?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
(DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-
DER): (a) A few of the NCERT
books were published somewhat late
during the last two years which was
mainly due to the introduction of the
new pattern of education. The syllabuses for 1978-79 examinations were modified on the recommendations of the Patel Review Committee. The NCERT has, however, recently

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streamlined its policy of reproduction and distribution of the books so as to avoid any such eventuality in future.

(b) For every academic session, there is detailed planning at every stage for the text books required for the session, right from the preparation of manuscripts to the production and distribution of the text books.

As regards bringing out the guides by private publishers, the Government have no comments. Both NCERT and the CBSE discourage the use of guides. NCERT also publish workbooks and teachers guides for various subjects. However, over the last two years in view of the large number of original textbooks that had to be produced, it was not possible for NCERT to bring out updated and new workbooks and guidebooks.

श्री० हरिराम मक्कासर गोदारः अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण और संस्कृति मन्त्रो यह बताने का कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनका ध्यान इस तथ्य की ओर दिलाया गया है कि राजधर्म में गत दो वर्षों के दौरान पाठ्य पुस्तकों का काम रह है और बाजार में पुस्तकों की उपलब्धता के अनुरूप पाठ्यचर्या में प्रायः परिवर्तन किया गया है ?

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द : मान्यवर, ये शिकायतें सही हैं कि पिछले साल में पुस्तकों की कुछ कमी थी। इसके लिए एन० सी० एच० ए० टी० ने नया प्रबन्ध किया है। इसके मुताबिक एन० सी० एच० ए० टी० कुछ स्कूलों में पुस्तकों भेजता है और इसके अलावा सरकार का जो पब्लिकेशन डिबिजन है, उनकी सारफत भी पुस्तकों बिक जाती हैं।

श्री० हरौराम मस्कातर गोवारा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि वणिज मनोवृत्ति वाले गैर-सरकारी प्रकाशक, पाठ्य-पुस्तकों के उत्पादन की कोई योजना न होने से, पाठ्य पुस्तकों के सभी विषयों के लिए गाइड प्रकाशित कर देते हैं और मनमाने ढंग से यह काम करते हैं? वे लोग गवर्नमेंट की स्वीकृति के बिना मनमाने ढंग से भी ऐसी पुस्तकों की कीमतें बढ़ा रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनकी मनमानी रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है?

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : मान्यवर, कोई मनमाने ढंग से काम नहीं कर रहा है। कुछ गैर-सरकारी प्रतिष्ठान पाठ्य-पुस्तकें छापते थे लेकिन वे ठीक वक्त पर नहीं आती थीं इस लिए इसमें परिवर्तन किया गया है कि एन० सी० आर० ट० पुस्तकें छापेगा और इसके अलावा हमारा जो सेन्ट्रल बोर्ड आफ सेकेण्डरी एजुकेशन है वह भी गैर सरकारी संस्थाओं से किताबें भालेकर उनका पाठ्य-पुस्तकों के रूप में प्रयोग करेगा।

SHRI RINCHING KHANDU KHRIME: These text books are not reaching the different parts of the country at the time the new academic year starts. Moreover, there has always been scarcity of text books. The problem is more for States like Arunachal Pradesh and other North-Eastern parts of the country. The States Educational Boards have the syllabus of the NCERT for their Secondary Schools and they have asked the NCERT for the supply of the textbooks. It has been seen often and on and on we have found that every year the textbooks are not reaching the States in time. The students and the teachers are put to lot of difficulties due to non-availability of the textbooks. We have practical examples. In view of this, may I request the hon. Minister after the syllabus is worked out by the Secondary Board, whether the samples will be given to the publishers who will publish the

books and send them direct to the school authorities concerned.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, there are different Boards and Textbooks Societies which publish school textbooks in different parts of the country. NCERT by and large was publishing books for the schools which are under Central Board of Secondary Education and other schools which have adopted NCERT textbooks. So in the last 2 years, we found that there are some complaints about the availability of textbooks. We changed the rules. Now there is an advertisement published in newspapers so that the schools place their orders directly to the NCERT or the Central Board according to their requirement. So, the bulk supply is made by the NCERT. In addition, if any loose supply is required, there are Government Bookstalls under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. They supply these books. This is how we are trying to meet the problem.

SHRI A. E. T. BARROW: Sir, is it not a fact that the Ishwarbhai Patel Committee recommended that NCERT should make a major recommendations in regard to the textbooks and that it should not engage in the task of publishing books? NCERT should only give the broad outlines of what should be contained in the textbooks and the State Governments concerned and others should carry out the actual publication of textbooks.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: As I said, there are different State Boards and State Textbook Societies. They are proceeding independently of NCERT. So far as Delhi is concerned, there is a separate textbook board for Delhi Schools upto Class VIII. The production of textbooks is not being centralised. Now what we have done is, so far as the Central Board of Secondary Education is concerned, we have given open choice to the schools to select either NCERT textbooks or the approved

textbooks published by private publishers so that there will be a proper competition and best books alone will be selected.

Inclusion of Moral Education and Sports in curriculum of Schools

*1095. SHRI S. R. REDDY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to include moral education and sports in the curriculum of junior High Schools; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the uniform policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). Emphasis has been laid for the development of social, moral and spiritual values in the revised curriculum of the Ten-Year School submitted by the Ishwarbhai Patel Committee. Physical and health education are also essential components of the curriculum upto class X and physical education as an elective subject for class XI and XII.

SHRI S. R. REDDY: This is more laudable object to emphasise on the development of social, moral and spiritual values in the revised curriculum. But the real problem and difficulty arises how you seek to achieve this because India is a country of multi-religions. In view of this fact, will the Minister consider my proposal to convene a meeting of heads of the religions and spiritual leaders to find out a common curriculum and fix these books for all concerned in the schools?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I shall consider this very valuable suggestion.

SHRI S. R. REDDY: Secondly, regarding sports, in the year 1982, we are playing host to Asian games and in the year 1984, we are going to have world hockey championship in India. Looking to the performance of our young men abroad in the recent games—hockey was our national game—in which we have given very poor account,—and in view of this poor performance in sports and hockey, will the Minister consider finding out talent from the rural youth? In sports, there is more politics than sports, rather than otherwise.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: The Government wholly approves of the idea of the hon. Member from the opposition. Actually, there was a meeting of the representatives of the State Boards or Councils for Sports at Patiala Saturday last and I had attended that meeting; and there I highlighted the problem of politics in sports. We have suggested that suitable steps may be taken by the State Government, because under the Constitution, sports is a State subject. Sir, you had inaugurated this parliamentary forum of sports. We are having dialogue with the Members of Parliament who take keen interest in sports. Certainly, it will be possible for us to tackle this problem.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद भाबुर : पाठ्यक्रम विद्यार्थियों के लिए तय किया जाता है विभिन्न स्तरों के लिए। क्या आपको इनकी भी जानकारी है कि प्राथमिक स्तर के जो छात्र हैं उनके पास इतनी अधिक पुस्तकें हो जाती हैं कि उनका बच्चे उनके अपने बच्चे से ज्यादा हो जाता है और बच्चों के लिए पुस्तकें ले कर चलना मुश्किल हो जाता है। इतना बच्चे प्राथमिक स्तर पर घाप डाल देते हैं। दो तीन दिन पहले आपने कहा था कि पाठ्य पुस्तकों के बारे में आप कोई कार्यवाई