

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.28
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

Curriculum revision in NCERT textbooks

28 Shri Saket Gokhale:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

the reasons for dropping, removing, or reducing content in NCERT textbooks pertaining to the topic of riots and conflicts in Indian history?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 28 ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024 ASKED BY SHRI SAKET GOKHALE, HON'BLE MP (RS) REGARDING 'CURRICULUM REVISION IN NCERT TEXTBOOKS'.

During the Pandemic – COVID- 19 outbreak, students across all the stages of school education struggled a lot to continue their learning through online and other modes. The concerns related to curriculum load including the content load spread over syllabi and textbooks had been raised from different corners. Therefore, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has rationalised and updated the content of textbooks, as per extant procedures, across the grades and subjects in the year 2021-22. Specific criteria were also developed for the rationalisation of content load, including overlapping content, high difficulty level, etc. These textbooks are continued from 2022-23 sessions onwards. Subsequently, some updates have been included in the year 2023-24 due to evolution of knowledge, facts and their interpretations.

The subject areas reflecting riots and social conflicts are usually part of the domain of Social Sciences and are narrated differently in grade specific textbooks of History, Political Science and Sociology. Though, different subjects under social sciences look at the same content from a different perspective. Some deletions and modifications have been necessitated by the need to harmonize understanding of different perspectives. Textbooks must also offer a settled historical context to unfolding of events in the society and may not be a platform to enumerate day to day strife and occurrences in the society. The contents of textbooks have been modified to help students build a positive mindset to develop an innate understanding of the drivers of social changes which shapes our multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society.
