

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 969
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

Inclusion Sikhism in Education system

969 Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to introduce school students to icons of Sikhism;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to popularize stories/ biographies of freedom fighters from Punjab amongst school students; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to highlight the cultural heritage of Punjab amongst students?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The textbooks developed by the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) have mentioned about various religious icons/popular stories/ biographies of freedom fighters from across the India. The existing History textbooks of NCERT have following mentioned from the state of Punjab:

Our Pasts - II, Textbook in History for Class - VII

- Chapter No. 6 - A Closer Look: Baba Guru Nanak (Page No. 74)
- Chapter No. 8 - The Sikhs (Page No. 100)

Our Pasts - III, Textbook in History for Class - VIII

- Chapter No. 2 - Maharaja Ranjit Singh (Page No. 19)
- Chapter No. 7 - The Singh Sabha Movement (Page No. 91)
- Chapter No. 8 - Lala Lajpat Rai (Page No. 98)
 - Jallianwala Bagh (Page No. 100)
 - Bhagat Singh (Page No. 104)

Education is part of concurrent list in the Indian Constitution and the States/UTs have their own contextual curriculum to highlight the above issues.

(c) The National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS), 2022 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023 includes Curricular Goals and competencies across the stage which draws strength from Indian Knowledge System. Different aspects of Culture and their icons have been integrated in all the new textbooks brought out for Grades 1,2,3 and 6 and other learning-teaching materials e.g., Jaadui Pitara developed by the NCERT. The Capacity Building programmes is conducted for teachers and teacher educators on NCFs integrate cultural education and local cultural contexts. Apart from inclusion and integration of cultural aspects in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, NCF-FS and NCF-SE, this Ministry has been organizing Kala Utsav since, 2015 which is a national level platform to showcase best students' talent in different art forms and cultural practices where they perform before a galaxy of Jury members. These secondary stage students come from all parts of the country.
