

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:133

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007

TEXT BOOKS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Masood Shri Rasheed

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

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has detected a case of bungling to the tune of rupees one crore in the publication of text books by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT);

(b) if so the details thereof along with the action taken in this regard;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such practices in NCERT; and

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 133 BY SHRI RASHEED MASOOD REGARDING TEXT BOOKS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21st AUGUST, 2007.

(a) & (b): No., Sir. However, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Union Audit Report (Regularity Audit Report No. 3 of 2007) for the period 2005-06 observed that delay in procurement process of paper for National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) textbooks for the year 2005-06 resulted in extra expenditure of Rs 1.04 crores in NCERT.

The Finance Committee of NCERT had taken a decision to procure certain quantities of text paper and cover paper on 2.9.2004, but the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) rate contract expired on 13.9.2004, and Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC), a public sector undertaking, did not agree to supply paper at old rates, despite persuasive efforts by NCERT and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c): NCERT has taken corrective steps including institutionalization of a system of open tender, timely finalisation of procurement process, and close monitoring to avoid delay.

(d): The delay in procurement of paper resulting in higher cost was circumstantial and systemic and not due to ulterior motive or fault of any single individual.