

Times dated the 8th July, 1977 under the caption "Text Books Fate Uncertain", and (b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the various observations made therein? Now the Chair must have considered the urgency of the matter but the House also must be impressed about the urgency so that the House may be in a position to comprehend the question and then put supplementaries to the answer given by the Minister. We are not in a position to understand what is the subject matter of the question. So, my submission is that the Chair has not performed its duty so far as the admissibility of the question is concerned. The intelligibility of the question is the very pre-requisite. And it is not intelligible. We would like to be enlightened about the substance of the question, if not by the question, then by the Chair so that we are in a position to put supplementaries.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair which has admitted the question, has understood it and the Minister who has accepted it, has understood the question. I have no right to review the order.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It is not fair to the House at all.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: I want a clarification from Shri S. N. Mishra. Since the question has been admitted, I want to know whether it is an aspersion on the Chair or on the Member concerned who has put the question. *(Interruptions).*

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION No. 23

Production of Text Books

S.N.Q. 23. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:**
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
DR. HENRY AUSTIN
SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Hindus-

tan Times dated the 8th July, 1977 under the caption "Text Books Fate Uncertain"; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the various observations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). Several points have been raised in the press report which appeared in the Hindustan Times. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The report in the Hindustan Times of 8th July, 1977 under the caption "TEXTBOOKS' FATE UNCERTAIN" does not reflect the factual position obtaining in the matter of production of textbooks by the NCERT.

There is no change in the present programme of production of textbooks due to the appointment of the Committee mentioned above. The textbooks are being produced in a phased programme as detailed below:

(1) *First Phase:*

New textbooks would be introduced in 1977-78 in classes I, III, VI, IX & XI

(2) *Second Phase*

New textbooks would be introduced in 1978-79 in classes II, IV, VII, X and XII.

(3) *Third Phase*

New textbooks would be introduced in 1979-80 in classes V and VIII.

For the First Phase, in all 56 titles (both English and Hindi versions inclusive) are required in July 1977 for the session 1977-78. These textbooks are already under production. Most of them will be available by the end of July 1977.

A few additional books in the second semester of Class XI will be made available later. (The second semester books will be required by November, 1977).

It has been stated in the Press Report that the Council has withheld

publication of a number of textbooks for IV, VIII and XII. None of these textbooks has been withheld from publication. According to the scheduled programme, classes IV and XII are to be covered by new textbooks in 1978-79. In the case of class VIII, the new textbooks are scheduled to be introduced in 1979-80. In view of this, the textbooks produced earlier are to be used during 1977-78, in classes IV and VIII.

As regards financial implications of the review, the matter will be examined when the report is submitted.

As the House is aware, a Committee has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ishwarbhai Patel, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, to review the Syllabi and textbooks prepared by the NCERT for classes I to X. The terms of reference are:

- (1) to review the stagewise and subjectwise objectives identified in the NCERT document "The Curriculum for the 10 year school".
- (2) to scrutinize the NCERT syllabus and textbooks in the light of the review as per (1) above.
- (3) to scrutinize the scheme of studies, as given in the said document, and examine whether any suitable modifications in either the scheme of studies or the time table or both should not be made and to propose suitable staffing pattern.
- (4) to review the present scheme of studies and the time allocated for various subjects with a view to ensure that:
 - (i) the institution/teacher has adequate time for experimentation, creative work, remedial instruction etc.
 - (ii) to accommodate the needs of the bright child for advanced level courses; the specific interest and apti-

tude, or the lack of it, in children, in only certain subject areas, keeping in view the national goals of development and objectives of education.

The Committee is expected to submit its report in 3 months' time.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am glad that the hon. Minister at least has not only understood the question but has studied it and given a thorough reply. It was unfortunate that my hon. friend, Shri Shyamnandan Mishra...

MR. SPEAKER: Don't go into that; no debate on that. I have ruled it out of order.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Unfortunately, the leading men like Shyam Babu do not even care to read the newspaper which has been quoted.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't raise a debate unnecessarily.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It appears from the statement of the hon. Minister that for the students of Class I, III, VI, IX and XI, for 1977-78 course, the books will be available although from the newspaper report, it appears that most of the books are not yet in the market even for this course. But what is a matter of more concern is that on p. 2 of the statement, it is stated that a Review Committee which has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ishwarbhai Patel of the Gujarat University is going to review the stagewise and subjectwise objectives identified in the NCERT document "The Curriculum for the 10 year school" and, therefore, the entire curriculum is going to be reviewed. Secondly, it is stated that it is going to scrutinise the NCERT syllabus and textbooks in the light of the review made by this Committee. Again, it is also stated that it is to review the present scheme of studies and the time allocated for various subjects and all that.

Now, under the 10+2 programme for which all this is being done, you can easily imagine the hardships that will be caused after the Review Committee report. All these books will need to be modified and the syllabus changed. What will happen to these books that you are producing today? You say that it is a phased programme. Why don't you have a proper scheme of production of these books so that they do not become out of date just next year after the Review Committee report?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I appreciate the apprehension of the hon. Member, Mr. Sathe. Actually, it is a phased programme in respect of some of the Classes, as hon. Member pointed out, and that will answer his question. It is true that the review Committee has been set up. That has been done due to the persistent public demand that the syllabus is too heavy. We do not know what will be the recommendations of the Review Committee. Therefore, we are going on with the *status quo*, that is the NCERT is going on with the phased programme. When we will come to know the conclusions of the Review Committee, then we will be in a position to know whether certain books will be necessary or not or how many of these books will be necessary. We will certainly keep in view that the burden on the parents is not heavy.

SHRI VASANT SATHÉ: Then, you have stated that for the first phase, in all 56 titles (both English and Hindi versions inclusive) are required in July, 1977 for the session 1977-78. If you force the parents to buy these books today which are going to be out of date after just three months or next year, they will have to buy new books. In Delhi itself, there is a report that 47,000 school students in the capital entering "plus 2" stage of the new education system will begin their new academic session next week without text-books.

This is because the NCERT has not been able to meet the dead-line for supplying the books. Secondly, it says:

"The educationists have pointed out that the students emerging from 10+2 system would be relatively weak in maths and languages."

So, in the light of this, I would like to know what is the programme of the Government to see that the students get proper educational and training facilities under this 10+2 system which is really creating a mess for the society.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I am not responsible for the mess, but I am trying to remedy some of the mess which has already been created. I may respectfully submit to Mr. Sathe that due to persistent demand from students, from teachers and from parents this Review Committee has been set up. We do not know what conclusions this Review Committee will place before the Government. However, I can assure the hon. Member that the results of the Review Committee will be duly considered and whatever effect will be there, that will be prospective and not retrospective. Therefore, the present students will not be affected by the submissions of the Review Committee.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: There is a complete confusion about this 10+2 system and there is a complete bungling in this Institution. The Minister had just now stated that in the first phase, the books are being published. I may tell you, Sir, that the number of students in Class IX and Class X is 1.20 lakhs and the new books to be published are 15 in number and so far only four books are available; in Class XI and XII, there are 17,000 students and the new books which are to be published in July are 31 and at present, only five books are available. The price has also been increased. The quality of

printing is also so bad that you need sometimes a microscope to study these books. Moreover, five foreign publishers have been given a contract for the publication of these books—I do not know what is the reason for that. This is not the first year when these books are published late; every year it happens like that. The schools are open and there are no books for the children to study. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government will make an enquiry into the working of NCERT which has created this mess and is responsible for spoiling the career of thousands of students? (b) What steps Government proposes to take so that students may get their books in time?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I will answer second question first. Certainly, steps are being taken so that the students may get books, but whether in time, that is difficulty, because we are trying to expedite the matter by placing an order with private publishers so that they may take up this job very quickly. Formerly, it was in the hands of NCERT. When it was found that they were not able to cope with the job, private publishers have been brought in, who are experienced in the line.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: I have already stated about it. I want to know what extra steps he wants to take to expedite the publication of these books, because every year—this year also—it is being delayed.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: There are many reasons for late publication of these books. As anybody who has something to do with publication knows the question of supply of papers, then load shedding and the sometimes the press is not working. I am not justifying the delay. We are trying to see that books are published, as quickly as possible.

Regarding his question of enquiry, a new Director has taken over its charge. He is looking into the work-

ing of NCERT, and if it is found that an enquiry is necessary, then certainly it will be done.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: Is the Government aware of the criticism levelled against NCERT (National Council of Education Research and Training) that the books prepared by this organisation are prepared by experts from the universities who have little knowledge about the absorption capacity of school children and that this has resulted in the work-load of students being increased from year to year. There is also some criticism that these books are first tried in cosmopolitan schools in metropolitan cities which have good teaching staff and facilities. And on the basis of acceptability in these schools these books are prescribed as model books and are introduced in schools all over the country. As every one knows, the standard of education and the facilities available vary from State to State, from region to region, and this has caused great and widespread dislocation in the educational field and has caused anxiety and concern in the minds of the people in general and particularly the parents, teachers and students, all over the country, particularly in the rural areas. Are Government aware of this situation and are they going to meet this situation by any constructive suggestion or proposal?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Government is fully aware of the situation. In fact, I met a number of delegations from parents, from teachers and from students. I have personally examined some of these books. Yesterday the New Mathematics was shown in this House. We fully agree; that part of the criticism which has been mentioned by the hon. Member is absolutely right, and we are looking into this matter. That is why, this Review Committee has been set up.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: If the publication of the books is delayed, will the hon. Minister assure

the House that they will hold special classes for students?
cerned.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: If necessary, the recommendation may go to the schools con-

डा० बापू कालदाते : अगले साल कितने लड़के विभिन्न क्लासों में जाने वाले निकलेंगे इसका पहले से ही अन्दाजा लगाया जा सकता है और लगा कर किताबों की छपाई इत्यादि का प्रबन्ध किया जा सकता है। इस साल तो जो हो गया, हो गया। लेकिन क्या सरकार अगले साल के लिए अभी से प्लान करके और इसको देख करके कि अलग अलग दर्जों में कितने बच्चे जाएंगे, किताबों की छपाई की व्यवस्था पहले से ही कर देगी ?

श्री प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : जो हो गया उसका तो कोई चारा नहीं है। लेकिन अगले साल इस तरह की दिक्कतें न हों इसकी हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

श्री गौरी शंकर राय : चार्ट को देखने से पता चलता है कि छपाई का काम पांच विदेशी फर्मों को दिया गया है। मेरे प्रश्न का पहला पार्ट यह है कि क्या कठिनाई है जिस को हल करने के लिये छपाई का काम उन को दिया गया है और आप को पैसा विदेशों में भेजना पड़ता है ?

छपाई में कठिनाई है तो यह सारी जिम्मेदारी पांच छः फर्मों पर ही क्यों लादी गई है ?

बिदेशों में छपाई की वजह से किताबों के दाम डबोढ़े हो जाते हैं। सिलेक्टड पब्लिशर्स को क्यों यह काम दिया जाता है ? क्यों नहीं इस काम को डिसेंट्रे-

लाइज करके यहीं पर छपा कर सस्ते दामों पर देने की कृपा की जाती है ?

श्री प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : नाम विदेशी हो सकता है लिस्ट में लेकिन फर्में विदेशी नहीं हैं। मैकमिलन कम्पनी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड यहां की है, नाम विदेशी हैं। यहां यह कारोबार करती है। इसलिये उन को दिया है यह काम कि उन्होंने कहा है कि हम जल्दी करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

SHRI GAURI SHANKAR RAI: The other part of my question has not been answered. What is the difficulty before the Government in giving this printing work to others? Why should they give only to these four or five publishers? Why do they not give the work to the others who may even do at cheaper prices? Oxford, MacMillan, all these are foreign firms....

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that MacMillan is not a foreign firm.

SHRI GAURI SHANKAR RAI: The Minister is not definite whether these firms are foreign or national.

श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव : बेचल पुस्तकों की छपाई का सवाल नहीं है। सिलेबस को लगातार बदला जाता है, छोटे छोटे बच्चों की किताबों को बदल दिया जाता है, उन को फिर छपा जाता है, फिर बदल दिया जाता है और फिर छपा जाता है। यह बदलाव और छपाई का सिलसिला चलता ही रहता है। बिहार में टेकस्टबुक कमेटी के द्वारा जो किताबें चाप कर छोटे छोटे बच्चों को दी गई हैं जो दाम उन किताबों के हैं उन से ज्यादा दाम उन के नोट्स के हैं। किताब अगर एक रुपय की होती है तो नोट का दाम तीन रुबया होता है। नोट अगर कोई नहीं लेता है तो उस को किताब

भी नहीं दी जाती है। प्राइवेट व्यक्तियों को होलसेलर बना दिया गया है। किताबों का जो लोग वितरण करते हैं उन के जरिये गरीब बच्चों का जो शोषण होता है उस को भी रोकने की आवश्यकता है। मैं जाना चाहता हूँ कि छपाई के साथ साथ वितरण और मिलेवम के बदलाव के बारे में आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

श्री प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : माननीय सदस्य की शिकायत सही है। लेकिन इस के लिये बिहार सरकार उत्तरदायी है। उस का कंट्रोल इस पर है। इस के बारे में मैं कुछ नहीं कह सकता हूँ।

DR. KARAN SINGH: I am grateful to the Minister that he is looking the curriculum because, as a result of the new curriculum not only has the homework of the children increased but the homework of the parents has also increased. I happen to have children of the school-going age and I am aware of the fact that the present curriculum is very heavy. But the point is, that he has said that most of the text-books will be available by the end of July. He is aware that the schools reopened yesterday and text-books for many subjects are not available: this is going to have an adverse effect upon the educational career of the students. Therefore, while a review is welcome, I would like to ask him what crash steps he has been to ensure that, even if it is cyclostyling or quick printing, something is put in the hands of the students before the end of July so that their academic careers are not adversely affected.

**DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-
DER:** I have confessed that there has been a time-lag and could not help it; but, as we all know, in the first few days the students generally do not study at all! Anyway, I may inform the hon. Member that some cyclostyled text material has been handed over to the teachers.

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : रिव्यूइंग कमेटी का जो फैसला होगा वह अगले साल के लिये होगा। बजाय इस के कि अगले साल इस की रिपोर्ट को लागू किया जाय इसा साल लागू करने पर आप विचार करेंगे ताकि विद्यार्थियों को कम स.जक्टस पढ़ने पड़ें। क्योंकि यह पहला साल था और लडके, प्रिंसिपल्ज, टीचर्स सब इसके खिलाफ है और हजारों लडके फेल हो गये हैं क्योंकि करीकुलम बिल्कुल कनफ्यूजिंग था, लडकों की तैयारी नहीं थी, उन को पास तो कर दिया गया लेकिन एडमिशन उनको नहीं दी जा रहा है, इस वास्ते उम को रिलेक्स करने के लिये आप तैयार हैं ताकि उन को एडमिशन मिल जाय ?

श्री प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : ये सब बातें अच्छी हैं और मैं इनकी जांच कराऊंगा।

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Is it a fact that the pattern 10+2+3 was introduced in a number of States but not in all the States and that, further, it was introduced only voluntarily by such of the States which thought that it was a good scheme worth introducing? If that is so, may I know whether this Review Committee will, apart from its other terms of reference, [I find that No. 2 is 'to scrutinise the NCERT syllabi and text-books in the light of the review as per (1) above'] go into the question of the syllabi and text-books with a view to having uniform syllabi and uniform text-books all over the country or whether the syllabi and text-books will vary from State to State as per the needs of the respective regions and the views of the teachers and their understanding of the syllabi and courses? If this is so, why has that part of the matter not been included in the terms of reference of the Review Committee?

**DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-
DER:** The Hon. Member is a senior Member of the House and he knows that the matter comes within the jurisdiction of the States. The NCERT gives some lead or direction by way of recommendation. Beyond that, we

cannot go. But, as I have said, I have called a meeting of the Education Ministers to be held on the 10th and 11th of next month and this matter will be considered then.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The Hon. Minister has to carry many bunglings left by the former Education Minister and the worst mess possible that he has created in regard to Higher Secondary. Fortunately or unfortunately, I have had the experience of becoming an author and my books were there for at least 16 or 17 years for the Higher Secondary. I am thankful that Smt. Indira Gandhi allowed me this time also to write books for the IX, X, XI and XII Classes. I also take the thread of my friend Prof. Mavalankar and I have got practical experience of these things being one of the authors of the text-books. I think, the hon. Minister knows that education is now a concurrent subject. The terms of references of the Committee have only directed them to review the curriculam of 10 years school that has been prepared by the NCERT. One difficulty is there that already the courses not only for secondary, but also for higher-secondary, ten plus two have started. Secondly, the NCERT's curriculum and syllabi are followed only by Kendriya Vidyalayas and in all other States, the curriculam and syllabi are prepared by the School Boards there. For that reason, these terms of reference are completely inadequate and insufficient. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether these would be made adequate and sufficient when the conference of the Education Minister is being held.

It is a problem that is faced by the school teachers and the authors and it relates only to classes 1 to 10. However, I am surprised to find that the Vice-Chancellor is going to head the Review Committee and most of the members of that Review Committee are professors and others, who have nothing to do with secondary and higher secondary education. The members of this Review Committee

should be those who have practical experience of syllabi and writing text-books. I would like to know whether this Review Committee would be expanded by including authors as well as school teachers, who are concerned with the education of IX, X, XI and XII classes.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: This Review Committee is sought to be made as balanced as possible. There are representatives of school teachers as also parents. The President of the Secondary Board of Education in West Bengal, Prof. Satinder Chatterji has been associated.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: The NCERT syllabus is not followed throughout the country. The first part of my question has not been answered. In some States like West Bengal, Assam and Tripura, already the second or third year of this system has started. It is a problem which thousands and millions of students in different States are facing. That problem has to be sorted out.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now; if you want, give notice for a half-an-hour debate; do not raise it like this.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The hon. Minister has stated that the Hindi and English versions of the text-books will be ready simultaneously as early as possible. I believe, many States have accepted ten plus two plus three formula. As the medium of instructions in different States is their mother tongue, it is necessary that uniform pattern of text-books must be there in regional languages also. When the NCERT introduces these text-books these must be available in time to the different educational authorities of the States to enable them to have them translated in regional languages. In view of this, these text-books must be made available as early as possible. May I know from the hon. Minister, what steps he proposes to take now as also in future to see that these text-books are made available to the

different States in time to enable them to have them translated in regional languages?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: As far as I know, most of the States have got their separate Text-Book Committees and sometimes they accept these text-books published by the NCERT and sometimes, they have their own individual patterns. All these problems can be taken up at the Education Ministers' Conference.

डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि जिम पाठ्य पुस्तक के प्रकाशन की चर्चा हो रही है वह 10 प्लस 2 प्लस 3 के अन्दर है जो अभी स्वयं अधर में लटका हुआ है, क्या इस पर आप निश्चय कर चुके हैं ?

दूसरी बात यह कि रिव्यू कमेटी के द्वारा संस्तुती आयेगी तो पाठ्य पुस्तक तैयार करने में, जसा कि आप स्वयं शिक्षक होने के नाते जानते हैं, कम से कम एक वर्ष का समय लगेगा। और यदि यह सही है तो क्या कोई भी विद्यार्थी इतने दिनों तक ठहर सकता है ? और यदि नहीं ठहर सकता है तो क्या आप कह सकते हैं कि एक वर्ष तक जो पुरानी पुस्तके हैं उन्हें को पढ़ने के लिये दिया जाय, और यह जो अनिश्चितता की स्थिति है जिसकी ओर माननीय साठे ने संकेत किया है वह अनिश्चितता दूर हो सके।

श्री प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : मैंने तो पहले ही कहा है कि जो रिव्यू कमेटी का मुझाव आयेगा वह अगले साल से लगेगा, पिछले साल के लिये नहीं।

श्री केशवराव धोंगड़े : किताबें मुहैया करना सरकार का फर्ज है, मगर टुकुमत अपने फर्ज के अंदर कामयाब नहीं हो सकी। जिन लड़कों को आपने किताबें

नहीं दी है वह कैसे पढ़ेंगे ? और जिन लड़कों को आप किताबें मुहैया नहीं करा सके हैं क्या उन तालिबिल्मों को बिना इस्तहान के आप पास करेंगे ?

श्री प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : हर किताब तो बदली नहीं गई है मैंने कहा है कि इसमें कुछ पुरानी किताबें भी हैं जिनको वह पढ़ सकते हैं जब नई किताबें बाजार में आ जायेंगी तब उन को पढ़ना होगा।

श्री भानु कुमार शास्त्री : मंत्री जी ने पुस्तकों के प्रकाशन में विलम्ब के कारण बताये है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह सही हो या गलत विद्यार्थी का इससे कोई संबंध नहीं है। अगर विद्यार्थी पुस्तक नहीं पढ़ेंगे तो क्या मंत्री जी इस बात पर विचार करेंगे कि उन की परीक्षाएँ विलम्ब से की जायें ताकि विद्यार्थी उन किताबों को पढ़ सकें ?

श्री प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : यह बात सही नहीं है, मैंने कभी नहीं कहा कि विद्यार्थी किताबें नहीं पढ़ेंगे। लेकिन कुछ देर हो सकती है इसलिये जो कुछ संभव है वह कर रहे हैं :

AN HON. MEMBER: Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us as to when the Review Committee will submit their report or as usual, they will take years and years? Has any time limit been fixed for them to submit their report?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I have already stated—perhaps the hon. Member was not here—that the Review Committee will submit its report within three months.

MR. SPEAKER: We had enough discussion on this question. Now papers to be laid.