

STUDENT WELFARE

NCERT launches web portal to ease supply of textbooks

HT Correspondent

• letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) launched a web portal on Wednesday that will enable schools to place orders for their books online.

Very soon, individual buyers will also be able to place their orders by logging onto the portal and books will be delivered at their doorstep.

"The move will help parents save money spent on sourcing expensive books from private publishers, often due to non-availability of NCERT books. We are not making NCERT books compulsory, but we will ensure they are available to students," said Anil Swarup, school education secretary, human resource development (HRD) ministry.

Officials said NCERT was also exploring the option of having Flipkart and Amazon host its

OFFICIALS SAID NCERT WAS ALSO EXPLORING THE OPTION OF HAVING FLIPKART AND AMAZON HOST ITS BOOKS AND DELIVER THEM TOO

books and deliver them too to streamline the process further.

"Amazon had approached us and talks are on with them and others too. A final decision will be taken soon," said a senior official.

E-commerce sites, which deliver general books free of cost, levy steep delivery charges on NCERT books. Officials said work on the payment gateway is underway, which will allow individuals to order books and make the payment. HT had first reported about the NCERT online portal on June 11.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which has

over 19,000 schools affiliated to it, has sent a letter to them, asking them to register and place their demands for the academic session 2018-19. They have been given time till September 8 to submit the requirement.

"On the basis of indent placed by affiliated schools on NCERT portal, the council will supply textbooks for all classes through its empanelled distribution vendors spread over across the country. Heads of the schools may raise one time requirements of books to enable NCERT to make appropriate planning for printing of books," said CBSE chairman RK Chaturvedi. The portal was launched by minister of state for HRD Upendra Kushwaha.

It has also been decided that CBSE will not publish any book from now on. The books that will be published for next year will carry all the corrections, updates and additions, including chapters on note ban and GST.

Now, order NCERT books online

To ensure better distribution of books

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Human Resource Development Upendra Kushwaha on Wednesday launched an National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) web portal that would supply textbooks to schools and individuals from the next academic year.

The idea behind the move, an official said, was to ensure better distribution of textbooks and address concerns among parents and schools regarding unavailability of NCERT textbooks.

Can track delivery

"We used to supply books through our empanelled vendors earlier. Now, we will have a way to ensure that the book reaches the school or the student, as the case may be, as the recipient can track the online de-

livery," an official told *The Hindu*.

"The schools will be able to log on to the portal, by entering their respective Boards' affiliation numbers and other details, till September 8, 2017, for placing their orders for the session 2018-19. The web portal can be accessed at www.ncertbooks.ncert.gov.in," an official release said. "The payment can be made just before the supply." The portal will also be open for individual buyers soon.

Books produced by private publications are more expensive and the NCERT wants to ensure that its more affordable books are available for all. "The results of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas are better than private schools in general. This shows that NCERT books are better," secretary (school education) Anil Swarup said.

NCERT launches online portal for home delivery of books

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 9

THE NATIONAL Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will now accept online orders for its textbooks and have them delivered right at the buyer's doorstep.

School Education Secretary Anil Swarup Wednesday launched an online portal dedicated to taking orders directly from schools and even students. Although the new academic session is still months away, Swarup said the early launch will help NCERT to be better prepared and provide books on time.

"We want to address the apprehensions regarding unavailability of NCERT textbooks.

The portal, for now, is open to schools to indicate their textbook requirement for next academic year. This will give NCERT a fair idea of the demand and help them prepare six months in advance so that there is no shortfall when the new session begins," he said.

Schools will be able to log into www.ncertbooks.ncert.gov.in with their school Board affiliation numbers. The portal will accept orders for the 2018-19 session till September 8. Payment can be made just before the books are ready to be delivered, said NCERT Director Hrushikesh Senapaty.

"The portal will eventually be open to students and individuals, but right now only schools can place orders for a month so we can get a sense of the existing demand," he said.

