

JIHAD IN TEXT BOOKS NCTB probe recommends punishment of guidebook publishers

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A PROBE committee of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board has prescribed punishments for publishers who gave extremist interpretations of jihad in the guidebooks for the madrasah students of classes 11 and 12.

The probe committee also recommended changing the definition of jihad provided in two textbooks published by the NCTB.

The probe committee recommended the changes as it found that there was scope for misinterpretation of jihad's definition given in Islam O Naitik Shikkha, textbook for school students in

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classes nine and 10, while Al Aqaid wal Fiqh, textbook for Madrasah students in class eight.

The 11-member probe committee submitted its report to the NCTB chairman Monday.

On Wednesday, the NCTB chairman forwarded the report to the ministry of education.

In August, the probe committee was formed by the NCTB following a New Age report published on August 4, under the caption, 'Teaching jihad at schools, madrasahs: Textbooks, guidebooks

give extremist interpretation.'

The probe committee recommended the changes in the two textbooks after it found that the New Age report correctly pointed out that there was scope for misinterpretation of jihad's definition given in both the textbooks.

Punishments for the publishers of the guidebooks for madrasahs were prescribed by the probe committee after it found out that the New Age had rightly pointed out that the guidebooks provided extremists' interpretation of jihad, said NCTB officials.

They said that the com-

mittee led by NCTB member textbooks Mia Enamul Hoq Siddique read the textbooks and the guidebooks before giving its recommendations.

They said all the five publishers of as many guidebooks submitted a written account of the contents in their guidebooks as demanded by the probe committee.

The probe committee also took the opinion of Islamic Foundation director general Shamim Mohammad Afzal on the definition of jihad given in the five guidebooks and two textbooks.

The recommendation of the probe committee would

also require the authorities to cross check the backgrounds of the writers and the editors before they were assigned to write the religious studies textbooks.

It also called for continuous monitoring of the textbooks and the guidebooks.

Punishments were prescribed against Al Baraqah Library, Al Fatah Publications, Al Arafah Publications, Islamia Kutubkhana and Al Islam Library which published the guidebooks.

NCTB would take action as per the education ministry directives, said its chairman Narayan Chandra Saha.