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Preparation of Text Books

We are shocked and disappointed to notice that in spite of frequent criticism, the National Text-Book Board continues to stick to their policy of insisting that text books to be submitted to them for approval must be made ready within two or three months of the Board's notification. The latest notification which appeared in newspapers recently invites authors and publishers to submit their manuscripts or publications by 30 November, 1989. That gives them barely two months and a few days in which to compile, annotate, edit and add such exercises as are necessary to make the books suitable for school children.

Is this, we ask, a practicable proposition? No wonder our books are badly written or compiled, and edited and printed with innumerable errors. Our children are as a result being subjected to an intellectual process which instead of educating them forces them to learn everything wrong.

The notification to which we are referring concerns the

academic year 1991-92. That is these books will not be needed by anyone before January 1991. Assuming that the Board announces their approval of the material submitted in November 1989 by February, 1990, the publishers will have more than ten months in which to complete the printing. The Board apparently thinks that the writing of books takes less time than printing. This is wholly wrong.

In any case we were certain that no author or publisher worth his salt could possibly produce a text-book which is really acceptable in just two months.

One of the principal causes of the current deterioration in education is bad text-books. The prospective writers and publishers must be given a reasonable opportunity of putting on the market something better than the books now on sale. We suggest that the time for submission be extended until April 1990 in the interests of students who will be forced to use these books.

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