

● 3.9 SCERT

□ 3.9.1 Introduction :

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) maintain a network of field offices to keep a close liaison with State Government. At present, these offices have been established in different States and Union territories. State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) is one of these offices. It came into existence on 5th January 1979 as a result of transformation and upgradation of the former State Institute of Education (SIE).

□ 3.9.2 Functions of SCERT :

The State Council of Educational Research and Training discharges the following functions:

- (1) To organize and implement the special educational projects sponsored by UNICEF, NCERT and other agencies for qualitative improvement of school education and teacher educators.
- (2) To prescribed curricula and textbooks for the school and teacher training institutions.
- (3) To produce instructional materials for the use of teacher-educators.
- (4) To arrange in-service training for different categories of teachers, inspecting officers and teacher-educators and coordinate the work of other agencies operating at the state level.
- (5) To organize programmes including Correspondence-cum- Contact Courses for professional development of teachers, teacher-educators and inspecting officers.
- (6) To supervise the working of the Teacher-Training Colleges, Secondary Training Schools and Elementary Training Schools.

- (7) To provide extension service to Teacher-Training Institutions at all levels in the state.
- (8) To conduct studies and investigations on the various problems of education.
- (9) To evaluate the adult and non-formal education programmes entrusted by the Government.
- (10) To conduct the public examinations specially at terminal stages like the end of Class III and Class IV etc. with a view to selecting candidates for scholarships through such examinations.

The State Council of Educational Research and Training has a Programme Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the Education Minister. There are also Special Advisory Committees for programmes like Population Education, Educational Technology and Non-formal Education.

□ 3.9.3 The SCERT has the following departments :

- (1) Department of Pre-School and Elementary Education.
- (2) Department of Non-formal Education.
- (3) Department of Curriculum Research and Special Curriculum Renewal Projects.
- (4) Department of Science and Mathematics Education.
- (5) Department of Population Education.
- (6) Department of Teacher and Inservice Education.
- (7) Department of Educational Technology.
- (8) Department of Examination Reform and Guidance.
- (9) Department of Research coordination.
- (10) Department of Art and Aesthetic Education.
- (11) Department of Adult Education and Education for Weaker Sections.
- (12) Department of Publication.

□ 3.9.4 About SCERT:

The Director is the head of the Council and he is assisted by one Deputy Director in administration and other in academic matters.

The Director of Education maintains a close and personal touch not only with the district level officers but also with principals and teachers so as to provide them with necessary guidance and intellectual stimulation.

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) is established and maintained in order to improve the standard of education in the states. The primary objective of the Council is to help through suitable programmes of research, training and extension. It plays an important role in those states in implementing the training programmes and orientation courses for different types of workers for introducing changes in the system of examination.

The appointment, transfer and promotion of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs), Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs), Training Colleges, District Institute of Education and Training (DIETs), Training Schools etc. are done by the Government of the states in consultation with the Director of SCERT.

All kinds of academic programmes are coordinated, streamlined and maintained by the SCERT. Periodical revisions and upgrading of curriculum, preparation of text books, teachers' guidance and other teaching and learning materials and improvement in methods of teaching and evaluation are also undertaken by the SCERT.