

# NCERT chief faces probe for irregularities

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**New Delhi:** Already in the eye of a storm for his controversial history books, NCERT director J S Rajput will now face an official inquiry on charges of financial and administrative irregularities levelled by Nilotpal Basu, CPM MP from Rajya Sabha and NCERT staffer.

The HRD ministry on Friday decided to institute the inquiry against Rajput which include victimisation of colleagues, appointment of relatives to NCERT, engaging consultants without justification, irregular spending of Rs 1 crore in the name of commissioning new textbooks, and another Rs 1 crore on a cultural programme.

HRD secretary for elementary education, Kumud Bansal, has been asked to conduct the inquiry and submit a report to Union minister Arjun Singh within 15 days.

Basu, along with B K Vajpayee, ex-president NIE Academic Staff Association of NCERT's social science department, had given a 60-page letter to Arjun Singh early last month, making allegations against Rajput.

In this letter, the two had alleged that Rajput had committed major irregularities during his five year tenure as NCERT director. Incidentally, Rajput's term gets over on 14 July and the government has already appointed a search committee to find a replacement for him.



Speaking to TNN, Basu said: "After coming across serious discrepancies in the NCERT during Rajput's tenure, I had approached Arjun Singh. It is strange how Murli Manohar Joshi, who had pinned autonomous institutes claiming they indulged in financial irregularities, failed to act against Rajput." When contacted, Rajput refused to comment on the inquiry. "I am not in Delhi. I do not know about any such inquiry and I will not say anything" he said.