

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2761
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012
CORRUPTION IN SCHEMES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the cases of irregularities in programmes like Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Saksharta Abhiyan, Mid-day-Meal-Scheme, Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan as reported in the media and if so, the details of the steps taken after coming into limelight of such news items;
- (b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has expressed apprehensions of financial loss due to irregularities in schemes and if so, the type of financial loss apprehended along with details thereof;
- (c) whether any efforts are made to know the views of the Members of Parliament of the area to suggest improvement in implementation of these schemes related with education;
- (d) if so, the procedure under which views are taken along with the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b): Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has a fairly intensive Financial Management System which includes annual audit by Chartered Accountants empanelled with Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, concurrent financial review by Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI) as well as system for internal audit. SSA conducts Quarterly Review Meetings with Finance Controllers of all States/UTs for monitoring the optimum utilization of funds. However, certain instance of misappropriation of funds meant for SSA have been reported through audit by CA firms, Accountant General (AG) of States, CAG of India and IPAI Reviews and action has been taken thereon.

Investigations have been made on the misappropriation of funds in West Bengal in 2004-05, Haryana in 2005-06, 2008-09-10, Himachal Pradesh in 2005-06, Andhra Pradesh in 2006-07 and 2010-11, Karnataka and Rajasthan in 2007-08 and Gujarat in 2009-10. Besides initiating departmental proceedings against the persons found guilty, police complaints have been filed and investigation through State CID/Vigilance Department has been conducted. The persons concerned have been transferred, suspended or terminated and recoveries affected. In Andhra Pradesh, orders attaching the properties of the two main accused parties have been issued.

With regard to Mid Day Meal Scheme, 86 cases (misappropriation of funds 30, poor quality of food 25, and other irregularities 31) were received during the last three years. State-wise details are given in Annexure. These cases were referred to the concerned States / UTs for taking corrective measures and to submit the Action Taken Note to this Department.

The States / UTs have taken necessary action on 38 complaints that were proved. This included warning to the concerned NGO and officers responsible, initiation of departmental proceedings against Principal and Inspector, transfer of the Principal, suspension of erring officials; registration of criminal cases for negligence against the contractor, cancellation of the contract of the supplier, changing of cooks where required, recovering from Gram Pradhan and compensating children as per the directions of the court.

The CAG in its Report No. PA 13 of 2008 for the year ending March, 2007 has pointed out diversion of funds in 5 States, whose details are given as under:

Sl.No. State Extent of diversion

1. Andhra Pradesh Cooking cost worth Rs.3.26 crore diverted towards construction of kitchen sheds.
2. Assam Cooking cost was diverted for purchase of utensils and LPG.
3. Meghalaya In one district the cooking cost of Rs. 5.06 lakh was diverted for payment of salaries to teachers of non-

government primary schools.

4. West Bengal Rs. 92.69 crore worth cooking cost diverted for kitchen sheds, cooking devices and MME.
5. Madhya Pradesh Rs. 17.78 lakh diverted for printing of cards, stationery, audit fee etc.

Replies from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh indicate that they urgently needed to construct kitchen shed hence diversion was unavoidable. Govt. of Assam has reported that no report from any district has been received showing that cooking cost had been diverted for purchase of utensils and LPG. Govt. of Meghalaya has informed that by the mistake the fund was drawn from Mid Day Meal Scheme but the same has been recouped. West Bengal government has clarified that funds meant for several components were kept under one single head, therefore confusion arose, actually there was no diversion. Madhya Pradesh Government has explained that there was no diversion of funds as the items indicated were used for implementing the MDM Scheme.

The Central Govt. consistently reiterates through the release orders to States and UTs that the funds released under MDM Scheme should not be diverted for any purpose other than for which it was sanctioned. In case of any report of diversion coming to the notice, the matter is taken up with States/UTs for appropriate action against erring officials, recouping the funds and taking remedial steps so that such things do not recur in future. It was done in these cases also.

The Government has also received complaints alleging irregularities in implementation of the RMSA in the States of Nagaland and Haryana. For Nagaland, a small committee has been constituted to find out the facts on the complaints. Haryana Government has requested to furnish the report in the matter. However, no such irregularity has been expressed by C&AG to the Government in respect of RMSA.

No complaint regarding irregularities in Saakshar Bharat Programme or any such apprehensions of financial loss by CAG has been reported.

(c) to (e): MDM Guidelines provide for nomination of Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly on State and District level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees for NP-NSPE (now renamed as National Programme of Mid Day Meal in schools). Working of the above schemes is also discussed in the meetings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and in the Consultative Committee of Parliament and suitable action is taken by the Government on the recommendations of these Committees.