

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:546
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013
FAKE STUDENTS IN ASSAM
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mid-day meal and free text books have produced at least 30 lakh fake students in Assam as reported in the print media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether fictitious students are being enrolled to divert text books and funds provided for mid-day meal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop misuse of funds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (d) The Central assistance for the Mid Day Meal Scheme is being allocated to the States on the basis of beneficiaries who have actually availed of mid day meals and the number of working days covered in the last three quarters of the pervious year i.e. from April to December. The average MDM beneficiaries, at national level, are around 70% against the enrolment.

The distribution of free text books is based on the District Information Systems for Education (DISE) data as on 30th Seoptember of the preceding year.

(e) In order to ensure effective implementation of the MDMS, the Scheme guidelines provide for an extensive monitoring mechanism at the school, block, district, State and the National levels. The scheme is constantly reviewed through Quarterly Progress Reports, in the National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee meetings and during Programme Approval Board meetings. In addition the Central Review Missions visit the States for an on the spot assessment. A total of 41 Independent monitoring institutes also evaluate the Scheme at regular intervals. The Ministry of HRD has already launched a web enabled MIS portal for MDMS and all the States/UTs have fed annual data for all eligible schools into the portal. The MDM-MIS would be integrated with an Interactive Voice Response System to monitor the Scheme on a real time basis through community participation.

The State Government of Assam has reported that block-wise, District-wise requirement & distribution of free textbooks is computerized and distribution is made as per the actual enrolment recorded in the Attendance Register of the schools.

The distribution of free text books is carried out directly at Block level under supervision of district level and block level monitoring committee consisting of members from various Departments, Civil Society and Students Associations, so that genuine students are not deprived of their legitimate claims.

To ensure transparency and effectiveness, the Govt. of Assam has started the process of child surveys to keep an individual record of every child through the Child Tracking System.