

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2222
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013
INTRODUCTION OF BODO LANGUAGE
Bwiswmuthiary Shri Sansuma Khunggur

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the State Government of West Bengal has not yet introduced Bodo language as a medium of instruction at the primary stage of education in Bodo-Mech villages in North Bengal in accordance with the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The Government is aware that the Bodo language is not a medium of instruction in North Bengal. Education is a subject on the concurrent list and through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) the Central Government supports the States/ UTs in the universalization of elementary education. The Section 29 (f) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 lays down that the medium of instruction should, as far as practicable, be in the child's mother tongue. A decision on the medium of instruction is in the domain of the State Government and this issue is not decided by the Central Government.