

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3684

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006

DECLINE IN SCHOOL DROP OUTS

Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Jha Shri Raghunath;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

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

- (a) the Central aid sought and provided to various States under Mid-Day-MealScheme during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (b) the funds utilised by the State Governments during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) whether the number of school drop-outs has declined and number of student beneficiaries has increased; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which this increase is proportionate to the increase in expenditure?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): Under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Central assistance to States mainly constitutes supply of free foodgrains and cooking cost. Quantity of foodgrains demanded by State Governments and allocated by the Central Government during the last three years are given at Annex-1. Central assistance towards cooking cost was introduced under the revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme w.e.f. September, 2004. Amount demanded by State Governments and funds released by the Central Government for this purpose in 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto June, 2006) are given at Annex-2. For the current State Governments have been allocated foodgrains provisionally based on last year's allocation pending appraisal and approval of their detailed Annual Work Plan and Budget-2006-07.

(b): State-wise position of utilization of Central assistance towards cooking cost is given at Annex-3.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. Coverage under Mid-Day Meal Scheme has registered an increase from 10.27 Crore in 2002-03 to 11.94 Crore in 2005-06, as has the expenditure. The outlays have increased from Rs. 1,100 Crore in 2002-03 to Rs. 3,345 Crore in 2005-06. The increase in outlay is on account of both increase in the coverage and introduction of new components of Central assistance.