

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) To overcome problems of shortage of text books, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has increased the print orders from 2.75 crores (approx.) copies to 4.98 crores (approx.) copies for the current academic session-2007-08. NCERT also provides copyright to State Education Boards to reprint NCERT text books as per their requirement. Text books of NCERT are also available on website of NCERT-www.ncert.nic.in. NCERT is an academic research organization and the Council's main mandate is to bring out high quality textual material, which can serve as an exemplar. NCERT is not a commercial organization and its purpose is not to compete with the private publishers. Whenever the Council brings out new text books, quality concerns in certain cases force the NCERT to compromise with punctuality.

The NCERT is mandated to print and provide text books to the school affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Some State Boards also prescribed NCERT Text books without any official information to the NCERT. It has also been observed that many schools not affiliated with CBSE also prescribed NCERT Text books. These reasons may create shortage of the NCERT text books in some parts of the country for a short span of time.

Child education system on Scandinavian Pattern

2892. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to introduce the child education system on the pattern of Scandinavian countries, *i.e.*, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how far this system shall improve the education of the children in the country; and

(c) whether this system is expected to be introduced in Uttar Pradesh in the first instance, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA) or "Education for All Programme" is the national flagship programme to provide quality elementary education to all children

flagship programme to provide quality elementary education to all children in the 6-14 years age group through a time bound approach, in partnership with States. The programme covers all States and Union Territories and reaches out to 20.9 crore children in the 6-14 years age group.

Funds for Mid-Day Meal Programme in Andhra Pradesh

2893. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested his Ministry to allocate and release sufficient funds to the State Government to complete the remaining infrastructural facilities, such as Kitchen sheds, drinking water facilities and gas connections, for effective implementation of Mid-Day Meal Programme (MDMP) in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of Government in this regard;

(d) by when the funds will be released to the State Government under Mid-Day Meal Programme for creating these basic facilities; and

(e) the response of his Ministry for allocating 3.8 lakh quintal rice to the State for MDMP as demanded by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) During the year 2006-07, the following Central assistance was provided to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Programme:—

(i) Foodgrains	=	1,31,002.16 MTs.
(ii) Cooking cost	=	Rs. 16289.84 lakhs
(iii) Transport subsidy	=	Rs. 902.78 lakhs
(iv) Management Monitoring & Evaluation	=	Rs. 135.90 lakhs
(v) Construction of Kitchen Sheds	=	Rs. 10320.81 lakhs
(vi) Procurement of Kitchen Devices	=	Rs. 2480.86 lakhs

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for the year 2007-08 for consideration of the Central Government.