

are also special interventions for enrolment and retention of vulnerable groups of children. The Mid-Day Meals Scheme that provides a cooked meal to all children of primary schools and alternative education centers has also helped in checking dropouts.

Absence of Teachers in Primary Schools

3040. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent World Bank-Harvard University study reporting that in India, one in four Government primary school teachers are absent on any given day, and that only one in two are actually teaching;

(b) whether it is a fact that in this study of 20 States, India has the second highest average absence rate among the eight countries;

(c) if so, whether Government have planned or implemented any steps to improve teacher attendance in Government primary schools across India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government is aware of a study by the World Bank and Harvard University covering 3700 schools in 20 States, conducted in the year 2004 and its findings reported that 25% of teachers in Government primary schools are absent on a typical day and of the teachers who were present, 59.5% were found to be teaching in class.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Emphasis has been given on the role of Village Education Committees or local bodies in monitoring and supervision of schools including attendance of teachers.