

The Sentinel

AATSU urges government to solve single teacher problem in schools

All Assam Tribal Students' Union (AATSU) central and district committees demanded the Government of Assam for a permanent solution to the single teacher problem in schools of the district.

The situation of single teacher schools in the North Lakhimpur district is outrageous even after formation of the saffron government. Both the Centre and State Government are to be blamed for such a situation. Multi-grade teaching, lack of proper attendance of students, and teacher absenteeism have severely affected the education of the students. All Assam Tribal Students' Union (AATSU) has brought an allegation of existence of 162 single teacher schools in North Lakhimpur district itself.

"We have submitted many memoranda to the government asking to solve the problem of single teacher schools in the district. There are many single teacher schools in North Lakhimpur district and these schools do not exist in the government records as there is a rumour that the authorities concerned doctor the records which are submitted to the government. The government-run LPS/MES/MS schools are struggling to survive due to lack of teachers for the students," Nirmal Payang, central president of AATSU, told The Sentinel.

"According to a Right to Information report, there are approximately 162 schools where a single teacher teaches around 80 to 100 students for an hour. This way the students will suffer in their educational career in future. We have demanded the district administration to pass strict orders in regard to the proper implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2010 and to take immediate action against all those authorities who have been doctoring the records and are involved in bribery and corruption for posting teachers from remote villages to town areas," he added.

He further said that the government should provide CCTV cameras in the government departments of Lakhimpur district to monitor the action of all the government officials during the duty hours. It will help and prevent any kind of malpractices in the office environment.

"The government must provide quarters for the teachers who are working in the remote villages and teaching children in various government schools. Government should provide facilities to those teachers so that they do not get involved in malpractices of transfer to town areas or leave

the schools. Many times it has been seen that a section of teachers provide an amount in order to get a transfer to an area near their home. Therefore, to prevent all these, the government should provide facilities to those teachers teaching in the remote villages. The government must conduct Headmasters Eligibility Test for recruitment of headmasters in schools,” said Nabajyoti Taku, in-charge president of AATSU district committee.

Through a memorandum, AATSU also demanded the present government of Assam to provide scholarship for the poor and backward meritorious tribal students as the past government completely ignored these students. The scholarship money of many students has not been released by the State Bank of India, the government should take action to give the amount to the poor students, stated the memorandum.