

(b) to (d) Of the four recommendations, one relates to Mid-Day Meal Scheme and three to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in their 66th Report (where out of 4 paras, 3 relate to SSA) has not made any recommendation relating to price rise in relation to this programme. Implementation of SSA Programme since 2000-01 has seen bringing of all eligible children in the age group of 6-14 years into the fold of elementary education except for 45 lakhs out-of-school children who represent children of 'difficult to reach category'.

#### **Shortage of qualified faculty in higher education**

2182. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a shortage of properly qualified faculty in Central and State universities and other institutions of higher education, such as IITs and IIMs;

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take for recruiting adequate number of qualified teachers; and

(c) how our students would enter into the global competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Governments have been requested by the Central Government frequently to fill up the vacant positions in universities and colleges as such vacancies adversely affect the standards of education. During the State Education Minister's Conference held on 23-24 July, 2008, States agreed on the need for a clear plan of action for filling up all vacant positions of faculty.

In order to attract and retain their quality faculty members, IITs have been employing suitable strategic which include providing of good residential accommodation, good medical facilities, initial research grants and suitable schemes for sharing of consultancy charges. IITs have also increased their intake in Ph. D. programming with a view of making available increased number of eligible persons to take up faculty positions. The IIMs have also been taking suitable steps to fill up vacancies.

#### **Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Mid-day Meal Scheme**

2183. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance released during the last five years, yearwise, for Mid-day Meal Scheme to Andhra Pradesh, at the primary stage and the upper primary stage;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to extend Mid-day Meals to children studying in classes VI to VIII; and

(c) how many children at primary and upper primary level would get the benefit of Mid-day Meal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The details of Central assistance released to Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise, is given as under:—