

Reports (OPRs). A national level review meeting of State Educational Secretaries Conference was held on 1st August, 2009 at New Delhi in which the implementation of the MDMS in Tamil Nadu was also reviewed. No serious shortcoming affecting implementation of MDMS in Tamil Nadu has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) As and when any serious issue concerning the implementation of the MDMS comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned State/UT is immediately asked to take necessary remedial action to ensure proper implementation of the Scheme.

(d) and (e) For providing better quality of mid day meal to children, the Government has brought about the following changes in the MDMS for all States/UTs with effect from 1.12.2009 :-

- (i) Revision of food norm for upper primary.
- (ii) Revision of cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) from Rs.1.68 to Rs.2.50 for primary and Rs.2.20 to Rs.3.75 for upper primary children with effect from 1.12.2009.
- (iii) A separate provision for engagement of cook-cum-helper on honorarium basis @ Rs.1000 per month to each cook-cum-helper.
- (iv) Revision of cost of construction of Kitchen-cum-Store.

Soft loans to students

†1776. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, on the lines of NABARD and SIDBI, the proposed National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) is also considering to provide soft loans to students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof
- (c) by when NEFC is likely to be constituted; and
- (d) the details of the working of NEFC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) A proposal to establish a National Higher Education Finance Corporation (NHEFC) to *inter alia*, provide refinance facilities to educational loans advanced by scheduled public sector banks is under consideration of Government.

World Bank report on secondary education

1777. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether latest World Bank report on secondary education observes that secondary education in India hardly gets the attention it deserves and remains highly inequitable across States;
- (b) whether evidence from around the world suggests that secondary education is critical for breaking inter-generational transmission of poverty as it enables youth to break out of poverty trap;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.