

(c) to (e) With effect from 1.4.2010, the cooking cost has further been enhanced by 7.5% and the present cooking cost (pcpd) at primary stage is Rs. 2.69 and at upper primary stage is Rs. 4.03.

(f) and (g) The overall responsibility to provide wholesome and nutritious food to children in schools under the MDMS lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, as and when any complaint comes to the notice of the Central Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct a suitable enquiry into the complaint and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and also to initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

#### **Elitism as a result of education system**

4690. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Indian education system is responsible for elitism causing sense of alienation in the minds of the common people;

(b) whether Government is aware that private and foreign universities will further widen the gulf between the elite class and the common people; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992), provides for national system of education implying that upto a given level, all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels. It has been stressed in the National Policy on Education as well as in several judicial pronouncements that education is not for-profit activity and commercialization of education is to be avoided.

#### **State Governments agreeing to implement RTE Act**

4691. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all State Governments have agreed to share 48 per cent expenditure to be incurred on implementing the Right to Education (RTE) Act; and

(b) if not, the States that are reluctant to implement the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 *inter alia* provides that the Central Government and the State Government shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act. For the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is the main vehicle for

implementation of the Act, a Central Budget allocation of Rs. 15,000 crore has been presented to the Parliament. The funds are shared between the Centre and States in accordance with the extant SSA norms. For 2010-11, the Centre-State sharing ratio is 55:45. State Governments have not expressed inability in implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. While endorsing provisions of the RTE Act, various States including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh have requested for allocation of adequate funds for implementation of the Act.

#### **Teacher absenteeism**

4692. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per survey conducted by Government sector firm Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) in several States, it has been found that teachers remain absent for long periods in Government schools;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether it has also been revealed in the survey that teachers in Government schools remain engaged in non-teaching work in most of the days in a year; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The MHRD conducted a Study on "Student and Teachers attendance" through Educational Consultant India Limited (EdCIL) in 2006-07 in 20 States. As per the findings of the study, the average attendance rate of teachers was 81.7% at primary stage and 80.5% at upper primary stage. Findings were shared with the States at various forums requesting them to take steps to monitor teachers' and students' attendance closely. Measures taken by the State Governments, *inter alia*, include close supervision of schools by block and cluster resource centres and Village Education Committees and by discouraging officers for using teachers for non teaching work such as conducting surveys for other Government departments.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 which has come into force *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2010 provides that no teacher shall be deployed for any non-educational purposes other than the decennial population census, disaster relief duties, or duties relating to elections to the local authority or the State Legislatures Assemblies or Parliament.

#### **Polytechnics in Andhra Pradesh**

4693. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: