

(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