

Encouragement of research work in academic institutions

3162. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced a scheme to encourage research work by academic institutions to make them more research-friendly;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme;
- (c) whether Government has earmarked funds for heritage information dissemination to public, a scheme for visiting Fellow in Art, Culture and Heritage has been prepared; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A scheme to strengthen basic sciences research in universities based on the recommendations of a Task Force under Prof. M.M. Sharma is under implementation in Eleventh Plan for which funds are being provided for infrastructure development relating to scientific research and award of fellowships to attract talent to research in universities. A sum of Rs. 496 crore has been provided during the years 2007-2008 to 2009-10 for the purpose. Fellowship for post-doctoral research in humanities and social sciences has also been instituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2009-10.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Culture has introduced a new scheme, namely, 'Scheme for Visiting Fellows in Art, Culture and Heritage' in 2009-10 to encourage serious researches into cultural resources. The Scheme has been introduced to encourage research work by eminent scholars on collections available with various cultural institutions and to invigorate and revitalize the various institutions supported by or under the Ministry of Culture. An amount of Rs. 5.00 crore has been earmarked for purposes of this scheme of Visiting Fellows, during the Eleventh Five Year Plan by that Ministry.

Extension of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

3163. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has received any suggestion to consider the extension of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme to all the students of class IX and X classes in each High School;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal; and
- (c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. States like Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Kerala had requested for Central assistance for extension of the scheme upto class X. Their requests were turned down as there is no proposal under consideration of the Government at

the moment to extend the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to students in high schools (classes IX and X). However, some States/UTs have extended this scheme to high school level from their own resources.

Three language formula in Kendriya Vidyalayas

3164. SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to implement three language formula in Kendriya Vidyalayas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether option of Urdu language in classes of Kendriya Vidyalayas is operative;
- (e) if so, the details of students whose mother tongue is Urdu; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Three languages, *i.e.* English, Hindi and Sanskrit are taught from Classes VI to VIII in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs). Provision for teaching regional languages including Urdu is made in KVs where at least 20 students opt for the same.

(e) and (f) The details of mother tongue of students are not being maintained by KVs.

Share of Centre and States for implementing RTE Act

†3165. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether public debate has started on the ratio of expenditure to be borne by Centre and States in respect of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act;
- (b) whether States have been or are being consulted on such matters or any other matter like this; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that the funds required for implementation of the Act would be shared between the Centre and the States in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Act. Extensive consultations were held with the States during the process of enactment of RTE Act. Subsequently, the RTE Act was discussed with Education Ministers of States and