

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