

Mid-day meals in primary schools

1248. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to provide cooked mid-day meal to primary schools in all the States and Union Territories since every child is eligible for the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is court's direction in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government would take care about the cooking cost on demand from States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (c) Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been revised with effect from September, 2004, so as to provide assistance to States to meet cooking cost also @ Re. 1 per child per school day, with a view to facilitate provision of cooked meal to all eligible children of the Primary stage. Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 1117.65 crore has already been released towards cooking cost.

(b) Several Central Schemes, including the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, are the subject matter of a Civil Writ Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court which is still *sub judice*.

Problems in the field of education

†1249. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem related to admission, fixation of tuition fee, allowing the foreign universities to function in the country and regularisation of self-financed professional educational institutes etc. in the field of education have taken serious proportion;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to take immediate action to solve these problems; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) In order to consult the State Governments on the subject of regulating admissions and fixation of fee for professional education through self-financing private institutions as well as the entry of foreign universities in India, a Conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education, was organized at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005. There was a general consensus among States for a Central Legislation regarding the issue relating to admission and regulation of fee. Accordingly, Legislation has been drafted for vetting by concerned Departments for circulation among various stakeholders including State Governments. There is, however, no consensus with regard to the issue relating to foreign universities. A Committee of CABE has been set up to address all aspects of financing of universities. Similarly, a Committee of experts has been set up in regard to all issues pertaining to the entry of foreign universities in India.

Inclusion of Yoga and Pranayama in school curriculum

1250. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include Yoga and Pranayama in school curriculum to revive this ancient science;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that Yoga teachers were appointed in the past but there are no Yoga related activities in schools;

(e) whether it has been proved beyond doubt that Yoga and Pranayama are not mere exercises but are complete science in themselves; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to promote Yoga and Pranayama in schools to promote a healthy lifestyle among the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Yoga has been included as part of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum from classes I to X. By National Council of Educational Research