

from the minds of children through improved pedagogy, hands-on practical skills.

(3) Experiential and inter disciplinary learning and continuous and comprehensive evaluation.

(4) 20 marks have been allotted to internal assessment for the practical and project work and 80 marks for the final examination in Class IX and X.

(c) and (d) As informed by the CBSE, the proposal to introduce the grading at the secondary examinations of the Board is under their active consideration and no time frame has been fixed for introduction of the grading system.

Adulterated mid-day meal

2691. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that the mid-day meal supplied to Government schools are polluted or adulterated;

(b) if so, who is responsible for this and what action has been taken to prevent it;

(c) Government's plan to give contract to such an agency/organization who are capable of providing standard food to ensure health of the children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) A few such instances come to notice from time to time.

(b) Such incidents usually take place due to negligence of persons responsible for the programme at the local level. Whenever any such incident comes to notice, State Government concerned is requested to take remedial action to prevent its recurrence. Also, revised guidelines issued for the Scheme in December, 2004, contain detailed provisions for maintenance of hygiene and quality standards.

(c) and (d) Above Guidelines envisage that responsibility for cooking

should, as far as possible, be assigned to Local Women's Self Help Groups, Youth Clubs affiliated to Nehru Yuvak Kendras, Village Education Committee, School Management and Development Committee, Parent Teacher Association/Mother Teacher Association or good NGOs. States/UTs are expected to assign responsibility for implementation to suitable agencies at the local level, keeping in view relevant factors and circumstances.

Guidelines for new courses

2692. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Council of Technical Education has issued revised guidelines for approving new courses and institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the deficiencies that were detected in the existing system which have now been removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The existing process of approval has been revised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for the year 2005-06. Under the revised process, multiple visits has been avoided and a combined processing of applications for all categories, namely approval for new institution, new programme and increase in intake, has been introduced in order to arrive at comprehensive holistic appraisal of the institution. The scrutiny of all proposals is made by an Appraisal/Hearing Committee of the AICTE in consultation with the representatives of the University and the State Government concerned.

(c) The above-mentioned changes have been incorporated in the existing approval process to enhance accountability, reduce multiplicity of layers in the approval process, to take timely, consistent and transparent decisions, empower the stakeholders, minimize hardship to the institutions and, to introduce parameters having bearing on quality of technical education.