

**Mid-Day-Meal to tribal students**

1170. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many tribal children who go to school do not get Mid-Day-Meal in central India's tribal regions of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that children going to non-aided schools in tribal areas of these States are denied Mid-Day-Meal and if so, the number of tribal Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class students who are denied Mid-Day-Meal; and

(c) how the situation would be rectified to ensure that the poorest of the poor get Mid-Day-Meal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (c) The National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools (MDMS) is a universal programme which covers all children studying in classes I-VIII in Government, Government aided, Local Body and National Child Labour Project schools, Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education centres including Madarsas and Maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(b) Non-aided institutions are not covered under the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

**Academic standard in engineering colleges**

1171. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the deterioration of academic standard in engineering colleges; and

(b) whether any quality upgradation scheme has been initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) All the existing Engineering Colleges are required to have the basic infrastructure and faculty etc. as per the norms prescribed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) from time to time. AICTE asks the institutions to provide the information in respect of basic infrastructure and faculty etc. through a self-disclosure mechanism. The information

so received through self-disclosure w.e.f. the Academic Year 2010-11 is placed in public domain on the AICTE web portal. If the Council receives any complaint with respect to non availability of facilities/faculty in the existing institutions, it ascertains the same through surprise visits by a Committee of the experts and takes necessary action as per the findings mentioned in the report of the Visiting Team.

(b) Yes, Sir.

**Indiscreet allocation of grants in higher education**

1172. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Parliamentary Committee has expressed its concern over indiscreet allocation of grants in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has suggested to University Grants Commission (UGC) not to release grants in excess of their capacities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the basis of present capacity prescribed for giving grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament (2007-08), in its 69th Report, has observed, in connection with the two schemes formulated by UGC during 10th Plan period (2002-2007), entitled, (i) Special Developmental Grant to Young Universities, and (ii) Special Developmental Grants to Universities in Backward Areas, that

- (i) UGC should review their system of approval and release of grants to universities under different schemes so that funds are released judiciously based on the soundness of proposals without needlessly blocking the funds released pre-maturely on half-baked proposals.
- (ii) UGC needs to be more vigilant and prompt in attending to and rectifying matters, which have large financial implications.