

(b) if so, Government's views and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) It is estimated that there are around 6 lakh teachers of classes I to VIII who do not possess the minimum qualifications laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). In addition there are imbalances in teacher deployment across schools in the country.

(b) The untrained teachers are expected to acquire the minimum qualifications within a period of five years, as per the Right to Education Act. Resource support is provided to the States/UTs for the training of untrained teachers, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

#### **Mid-day-meals cooked in Uttar Pradesh**

1457. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain schools in Uttar Pradesh, Mid-day-meals cooked by dalits is not eaten by students of higher castes and it goes waste;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any enquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that such incidents of caste discrimination were limited to a few districts. In a few places, children were not taking mid day meals because of local reasons, such as a dispute between cooks on division of workload, which was amicably resolved by the District team. In other places a few persons of the village created such an atmosphere with the possible objective of gaining benefits in the Panchayat elections.

In all these cases, effective action was taken by the local administration to ensure that the MDM work was not affected. In addition, there is an extensive monitoring mechanism at the school, block, district, State and the National levels to ensure effective implementation of the scheme.

#### **Promotion and teaching of Urdu language**

1458. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

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