

Capitation fee charged by self-financing colleges

2737. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the exorbitantly high capitation fee prevalent in many of the private self-financing colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken to regulate the fee structure of the private self-financing colleges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) It has been stressed in National Policy on Education as well as in several judicial pronouncements that education is a not-for-profit activity and commercialisation of education is to be avoided. The tuition fee to be charged by Self-financed colleges for particular technical programmes is fixed by State Level Fee Committee constituted by the respective State Governments under the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the TMA Pai Foundation and others *V/s* State of Karnataka and others WP (civil) No. 317 of 1993.

Extension of MDMS to private schools

2738. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering extending the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) to reserved quota students in private schools;
- (b) whether Government considers this to be an effective step in a private school environment; and
- (c) if so, the details of the progress on the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Working Group on Elementary Education and Literacy for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17), has recommended extension of MDMS to the children studying in the private unaided schools in Tribal areas.

Contract labour in cleaning operations

2739. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Southern Railway is continuing with contract labour in cleaning operations inspite of Supreme Court's direction to abolish contract labour system in Railways;
- (b) whether any cleaning services have been sub-contracted by Railways in Kerala;