

Implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

*603. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked all the State Governments to effectively implement the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the scheme has helped to increase the percentage of literacy as well as to reduce the drop-out rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has issued detailed guidelines for effective implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS). The working of the scheme is constantly reviewed by the Central Government through meetings with Education Secretaries of the States/UTs, National level Steering cum Monitoring Committee meetings, Regional review meetings and Quarterly Progress Reports. 41 independent institutions also monitor the MDM Scheme.

(c) and (d) According to the 2011 Census, the literacy rate for India has gone up to 74.04 per cent from 64.83 per cent in 2001.

The dropout rate at the elementary level, which was 55.14% during 1999-2000, has come down to 42.39% in 2009-10. The enrolment and retention of children in schools depend on several factors including Government interventions in the field of education, health and nutrition, as well as demographic changes and level of economic development. MDMS is one of the important contributory factors in the improvement of the literacy and dropout rates.

National mission on teachers and their training

*604. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning a National Mission on Teachers and their training, to deal with issues like faculty shortage, recruitment policies and capacity building of teachers in schools and colleges;

(b) if so, the details of the Mission, its administrative set up and *Modus Operandi*; and

- (c) the time-frame decided for accomplishment of the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble President of India in her address to both the Houses of Parliament on 12th March, 2012 had announced the intention of the Government to launch a National Mission for Teachers aimed at improving teacher education and faculty development.

In pursuance of the announcement, Ministry of Human Resource Development has held meeting with different stake holders on 17th April, 2012 to work out the contours to launch the proposed National Mission on Teachers and Training aimed at improving teacher education and faculty development. The programmatic thrusts of the proposed Mission would *inter alia* cover the following:

- (i) Enhancing the availability of teachers to meet the demands of the education system.
- (ii) Development of guidelines/frameworks for the improvement of the existing institutional structures and process involved in the continuing professional development of teachers.
- (iii) Ensuring that teachers are provided continuing professional development opportunities.
- (iv) Formulating strategies for attracting and retaining talented youth into the teaching profession.
- (v) Enhancing quality of teaching, teacher education and teacher training and use of technology.

This is expected to be a major thrust area of action during the XII Five Year Plan.

Marketing of agricultural produce

*605. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is no single organisation for marketing of agricultural produce in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the marketing of different agricultural products comes under different Ministries/Committees/Boards, leading to uncoordinated policies and schemes;