

to engineering institutions by providing weightage to performance in Class XII Board examinations and reducing the impact of coaching for such admissions. During this process, issues of reforms at the schooling level leading to the class XII Board examination have also arisen. In order to approach the issue holistically, Government is contemplating the constitution of a Committee for the purpose.

ICT in schools

2254. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a National Mission for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in school education is under implementation;
- (b) if so, the objectives of the scheme; and
- (c) of the private networks and internet connections provided, how many have been provided to universities and colleges/polytechnics in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Scheme, which is implemented by Department of Higher Education for linking Universities and Colleges in the country, 1 GBps optical fiber connectivity to 9 universities and Virtual Private Network over Broadband internet connection to 211 colleges/polytechnic have been provided so far, in the State of Jharkhand.

Cooks-cum-helpers under MDMS

2255. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools brought under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) so far, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cooks-cum-helpers appointed in those schools, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is aware that in many cases the mid-day-meal cooks-cum-helpers are being retrenched; and
- (d) if so, the action being taken to stop such retrenchments?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) State-wise detail of schools covered and cooks-cum-helpers engaged under the MDM Scheme are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Earlier there was no criterion for engagement of cooks and helpers and payment of remuneration to them differed from school to school. The scheme was revised with effect from 01.12.2009, to provide separate honorarium to each cook-cum-helper @ Rs. 1000/- per month and prescribed one cook-cum-helper for a school having upto 25 students, two cook-cum-helpers for schools with 26 to 100 students and one additional cook-cum-helper for every addition of upto 100 students. Cook-cum-helpers are engaged every year by States/UTs on honorarium for this part time work. Their service conditions are regulated by the State Governments.

Statement

Number of institutions covered and cooks-cum-helpers engaged under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme during 2011-12

Sl. No.	State/UT	2011-12	
		Institutions	No. of cook-cum-helpers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80943	165227
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4358	8422
3.	Assam	67402	113770
4.	Bihar	70773	183583
5.	Chhattisgarh	47868	131935
6.	Goa	1559	2383
7.	Gujarat	36798	88931
8.	Haryana	15783	32384
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15096	24738
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	22812	25016
11.	Jharkhand	42041	81013
12.	Karnataka	56083	103873
13.	Kerala	17387	13032
14.	Madhya Pradesh	115132	228703
15.	Maharashtra	121344	230184
16.	Manipur	2966	4232

1	2	3	4
17.	Meghalaya	10074	15720
18.	Mizoram	2506	5044
19.	Nagaland	2261	4789
20.	Odisha	86177	70670
21.	Punjab	22035	34643
22.	Rajasthan	79845	121030
23.	Sikkim	1000	1891
24.	Tamil Nadu	36807	107333
25.	Tripura	6531	11042
26.	Uttarakhand	17953	30150
27.	Uttar Pradesh	158107	381964
28.	West Bengal	84522	248019
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	345	0
30.	Chandigarh	115	639
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	368	570
32.	Daman and Diu	97	295
33.	Delhi	3496	0
34.	Lakshadweep	43	106
35.	Puducherry	465	1031
TOTAL:		1231092	2472362

Source: State Quarterly Reports.

English as an optional medium of education

†2256. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the desire to get educated through English medium is getting stronger with the objective of getting employment,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.