

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to inspect preparation and distribution of food. Similarly, priority is given to these communities in the recruitment of cook-cum-helpers. About 45% of the engaged cook-cum-helpers are from SC and ST communities.

The MDM guidelines lay down that on an average 25% of schools should be inspected every quarter by the State Government officers belonging to different departments at the District, Sub-Division, Tehsil/Taluka, block and other suitable levels. In addition, the Review Missions consisting of representatives of the Central Government, the respective State Government, the UNICEF and the office of the Supreme Court Commissioner are also monitoring the Scheme. Similarly, 41 independent Monitoring Institutions such as the IIT Chennai and the Visva-Bharati University etc. also monitor this aspect.

#### **Decline in admissions in engineering and polytechnic institutions**

†2441. DR. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the admissions in polytechnic and engineering institutions in some States;
- (b) if so, the names of such States alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any scheme is under consideration of Government to prevent such decline in admissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The decline in admissions to polytechnic and engineering institutes is applicable to almost all the States/UTs throughout the Country. The number of admissions has declined due to the lack of adequate infrastructural facilities and the shortage of faculty in some institutes.

(c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has requested all the State Governments to provide a perspective plan for the development of Technical Education in their respective States. The AICTE has not yet received such perspective plans from any of the State Governments.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.