

in all branches of engineering and physical sciences, development of virtual laboratory, the development of vocational education modules, talk to a teacher, etc. By extending computer infrastructure and connectivity, the reach of these facilities are ensured to the academic community.

**Improving National Literacy with the help of  
mobile phones and TVs**

4145. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of mobile phones and massive penetration of TV have opened up a whole new world of possibility for Indians across the country;

(b) whether more than 60 lakh people appeared for the National Literacy Learner's Assessment and Certification (NLLAC) exam; and

(c) what steps Government is taking to make mobile phones and TVs cheaper which will help in national literacy in the wake of 60 lakh people taking the above exam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the first assessment conducted by the National Literacy Mission Authority in collaboration with the National Institute of Open Schooling in August, 2010, 2,98,72,379 adult learners are reported to have appeared till 31.03.2013.

(c) Under Saakshar Bharat, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at imparting literacy to non-literate adults, transacting teaching and learning of functional literacy through the medium of mobile phones and TVs is not envisaged so far.

**Implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme**

†4146. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has been implementing a scheme namely Mid-Day-Meal under nutrition-based programme;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.