

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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the status of performance of different States as regards better and poor performances under this scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that this scheme was allocated Rs. 48 thousand crore in Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details of total amount spent finally and achievement of targets fixed under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme hot cooked food is given to eligible school children, to provide 450 calories of energy and 12 grams of proteins. This is derived from 100 grams of wheat/rice, 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables and 5 grams of oil/fat for children studying in primary classes. In the case of upper primary classes the aim is to provide 700 calories of energy and 20 grams of proteins, through 150 grams of wheat/rice, 30 grams of pulses, 75 grams of vegetables and 7.5 grams of oil/fat.

As on 31.12.2012, the average coverage against enrolment under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, for the country as a whole, was 73%. In 26 States of the country the coverage of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme was more than 73%; in the remaining 9 States/UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Tripura it ranged between 45 – 69%.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 38,491 crores was spent on the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme against an allocation of Rs. 48,000 crores during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The achievement of targets fixed under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan is given in Statement.

Statement

Achievements during the period 2007-08 to 2011-12

Item	2007-08*	2008-09*	2009-10*	2010-11*	2011-12*
1	2	3	4	5	6
Approved number of children (in crore)	11.37	11.74	11.77	11.36	11.07
Average number of children covered (in crore)	9.54	11.19	11.04	10.46	10.54

1	2	3	4	5	6
Foodgrain allocated (in lakh MTs)	24.79	29.30	29.45	29.40	29.20
Budget allocation (in crore)	7324.00	8000.00	8000.00	9440.00	10380.00
Revised allocation (Rs. in crore)	6678.00	8000.00	7359.15	9440.00	10380.00
TOTAL Exp. (in crore)**	5835.44	6539.79	6937.79	9128.44	9901.91

*Primary and Upper Primary combined.

**This includes cost of foodgrains.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

4147. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of execution of work regarding the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project involving 3,300 kilometers of track with an estimated financial outlay of Rs. 60,000 crore;

(b) whether changes in the alignment design were a significant delaying factor and have been sorted out;

(c) whether this freight corridor would be able to withstand the envisaged axle load; and

(d) if so, whether the freight trains would be run with diesel locomotive or simultaneously provisions have been made for electrification to enable swifter and pollution-free running of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) Two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) viz. Eastern Corridor (Dankuni-Ludhiana, 1839 kms.) and the Western Corridor (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to Tughlakabad/Dadri, 1499 kms.) have been sanctioned. The cost of DFC Project (excluding cost of land acquisition) is currently estimated at Rs. 88,300 crore. This includes escalation in cost during construction period, capitalization of interest during construction, insurance and taxes etc.