

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) During the year 2012, 16 complaints relating to poor quality of the Mid-Day Meals (MDM) had been received in this Ministry. These complaints were referred to the concerned State Governments, who have taken necessary action in 14 out of the 16 cases. The allegations were not proved in five cases, while action has been taken by the State Governments in the remaining nine cases. The action taken included a warning to the concerned NGO and officers responsible, the initiation of departmental proceedings against the Principal/Headmaster and Inspector, the suspension of erring officials etc. The State Governments of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh had also reported the supply of poor quality of foodgrains. This was taken up with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and resolved.

The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) guidelines provide for the monitoring of the scheme by the officials of State Governments, nutrition experts, Monitoring Institutes, School Management Committee etc. for ensuring that children get nutritious Mid-Day Meals of satisfactory quality. These Officials/Institutes also inspect the Kitchens and Godowns with respect to cleanliness so the nutritious meals prepared under safe and hygienic conditions are served to the children. The cooked food has to be tasted by 2-3 adults, including one teacher, before it is served to the children. The ingredients used for cooking, food grains, pulses, vegetables, cooking oil and condiments, should be free from adulteration and infestation, and should be used only after proper cleaning and washing. The cooking and serving utensils should be properly cleaned and dried every day after use.

#### **Implementation of RTE Act**

2891. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is showing signs of relenting to the pressure to amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act;

(b) whether it is a fact that the deadline to meet the infrastructure has been looming; and

(c) if so, the number of schools which did not comply with the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government has heeded the advice of the Central Advisory Board on Education in its meeting held on 8th November, 2012 not to relax the timelines for school infrastructure standards of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009. It is indeed a fact that the deadline was prescribed in the Act and has been known to all concerned for more than three years. As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12, 60.52% schools had a Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) as prescribed, 67.74% of the schools had girls' toilets, 87.63% had boys' toilets, 94.57% schools had drinking water and 53.57% had ramps.

In order to enable the States/UTs to comply with norms stipulated in the RTE Act, Rs. 61906.50 crore of Central Government funds have been, released to the States/UTs so far, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) since 2010-11 and 58,163 schools, 5,18,700 toilets, 31,678 drinking water facilities and 2,47,181 ramps have been sanctioned under the SSA.

#### **Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas in Uttar Pradesh**

†2892. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas in backward districts of Uttar Pradesh where there is no such school till now; and

(b) if so, by when Kendriya Vidyalayas would be opened in those districts where these facilities have not been provided to children till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are opened primarily to cater to the educational needs of the children of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-Military Personnel by providing a common programme of education and are not located on the basis of backwardness.

The Navodaya Vidyalayas Scheme provides for the opening of one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the country. Out of 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, JNVs have been sanctioned in 70 districts. One additional JNV has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.