

**Setting up of rural university**

52. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation for setting up of Rural University; if so, what further action has been taken by the Ministry in this regard;

(b) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has asked opinion of Ministry of Rural Development, University Grants Commission (UGC) and State Governments in this regard; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government intends to set up a rural university to execute ideas of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi; the specific time limit thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A letter was received from Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Member of Parliament forwarding a concept paper on the need for establishing rural universities so as to get trained and skilled manpower required for the progress of the villages. No separate study has been conducted but the matter was examined in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in detail and it was decided that the objective can be suitably met by the existing Central Universities by including suitable courseware in the programmes being offered by them. Accordingly, letters have been addressed to the Vice Chancellors of all Central Universities on 25th June, 2013 requesting them to consider including appropriate subjects in the programmes offered by the Central Universities. The MHRD has already set up an apex council, namely the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) in the year 1995, whose exclusive aim is to promote rural higher education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education.

**Quota of Chairman of K.V.S.**

†53. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Government has decided to increase the quota of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan's Chairman in admissions;

(b) if so, the number of seats which has been prescribed for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(c) the year by which this quota will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Mid Day Meal Scheme

†54. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, with a view to luring the children to come to school, Mid-day Meal Scheme is being run;

(b) if so, the average expenditure made thereon during the last five years; and

(c) whether any monitoring arrangement has been made for the smooth implementation thereof, if so, the details thereof and whether it would be accountable for the smooth functioning thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Mid Day Meal Scheme reaches out to 10.68 crore children in 12.12 lakh institutions across the country. The expenditure on the Scheme for the last five years is as under:

Item	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Total exp. (in Cr.)	6540	6938	9128	9902	10868

(c) There is an extensive monitoring mechanism at the school, block, district, State and the National levels. The schemes is constantly reviewed through Quarterly Progress Reports; in the National level Steering cum Monitoring Committee meetings and during the Programme Approval Board meetings. In

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