

(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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

addition the Central Review Missions visit the states for an on the spot assessment and independent Monitoring Institutes evaluate the Scheme at regular intervals. Community involvement is promoted in the implementation and supervision of the Mid Day Meal Scheme for greater transparency and accountability.

Expenditure on Research and Development

55. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spending as percentage of GDP towards Research and Development has remained stagnant at 0.9 per cent, whereas China directs around 1.42 per cent of its much larger GDP towards R&D;

(b) if so, our specialized research institutions, in collaboration with universities are giving more attention after January, 2012 when our Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed serious concern about slow progress of R&D activities while addressing 99th Indian Science Congress in January, 2012; and

(c) whether it is a fact that India published only 2,33,027 scientific papers in 2010 as compared to 9,69,027 science articles in China?

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

(b) The Prime Minister has declared the goal of doubling the percentage of GDP devoted to research and development to 2%. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have initiated several schemes to promote Research and Development (R&D) activities in collaboration with academia and industry. In fact, the Ministry of Science and Technology has also issued a policy on Science, Technology and innovation policy, 2013 to increase the investment in Research and Development.

(c) Yes, Sir.

FYUP in Delhi University

56. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced Four Years Under-