

**Training of master cooks for MDMS**

60. SHRI JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministries of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and Tourism are working on imparting training of master cooks engaged under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS);

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the two ministries have failed to implement the scheme/programme, especially the nutrition and hygiene aspects of MDMS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The preparation of a hygienic and wholesome meal depends on the knowledge and skills of the cook-cum-Helper. Accordingly, on the request of the MHRD, the Ministry of Tourism has agreed to provide training to selected cook-cum-helpers as master trainers through Hotel Management Institutes and the Food Craft Institutes (FCIs). A ten day full time course will be organised that covers the following aspects:-

- i. Knowledge dissemination regarding the caloric and nutritive values of the Mid-Day Meal.
- ii. The methods of cooking for retaining the nutritive value of cooking ingredients.
- iii. Awareness regarding the issues of malnutrition and also the benchmarking of nutrition levels.
- iv. The importance of regular washing of hands.
- v. General health and hygienic practices and concerns.
- vi. Communication skills.

The process of training has started and a group of 30 cooks will be given training in each Institute. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to nominate 30 cook cum helpers from their State for each Institute.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.