

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present. Two Central Universities are already in existence in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, two satellite university campuses of the State University of Kashmir have been sanctioned for both Leh and Kargil districts. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released an amount of Rs. 2662.65 lacs towards the establishment of these campuses (Rs. 1369.59 lacs for the Leh campus and Rs 1293.16 lacs for the Kargil campus). Two Model Degree Colleges at Nobra (Leh) and Zaskar (Kargil) have also been sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the financial year 2011-12.

(b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the State Government, some delays in construction work have taken place on account of bad weather.

(c) Funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are released as per the terms and conditions of each scheme as approved by the Competent Authority. The UGC has reported that it has its own process for the release of funds which depends upon the progress of utilization.

Decrease of students in Government schools and colleges

66. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of students in Government colleges, Higher Secondary schools, Primary schools are decreasing day by day and the number of students in private schools and colleges are increased, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government could open at least two Kendriya Vidyalayas up to 12th Standard in every block of the country as these schools are very popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The comparative data requested is not maintained by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, there is no evidence of decrease enrolment in schools run by this Ministry, *i.e.* 1094 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 586 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), throughout the country. The KVs provide education from nursery to 12th standard and the JNVs from class-VI to Class-XII. Both the organizations have a limited intake of students for each class. But the number of applicants seeking admission is

disproportionately high compared to the intake capacity of schools. The enrolment position in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has increased to 11,21,012 in 2012-2013 as compared to 10,58,450 in 2010-2011.

The management wise data for the Higher Education was compiled for the first time for the year 2010-11 under the All India Survey on Higher Education, according to which the no. of Government colleges is 26.8 percent of the total no. of colleges and the percentage of students enrolled in these colleges is 39.2 percent of the total.

(b) No, Sir.

Mid day meal tragedy in Bihar

67. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the mid-day meal tragedy at two schools in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted into the tragedy; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and action taken, if any, against the responsible persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) A tragic incident took place in Navsrijit Government Primary School, Gandaman, Block Masrakh, District Saran of Bihar, where 23 children died after availing of the mid-day meal on 16th July, 2013. In all 79 children are enrolled in this school and on the fateful day, 55 children availed of the mid-day meal, out of which 46 children and one cook were hospitalised.

As there was no kitchen-cum-store in this school, the food-grains and other food items were stored in the house of the Head, who would issue the daily quota of ration to the cooks for cooking at school. On 16th July, the same practice was continued and the Head Teacher issued the food items to the cook. However, during cooking, the cook noticed that the oil was different and it had a peculiar smell. She brought it to the notice of Head Teacher, who chided her by saying that this oil has been procured for her own house and there was nothing wrong