

system. An increased emphasis has been placed on academia-industry inter-action to ensure that academic institutions are sensitized to the needs and expectations of employers.

The AICTE has also notified its Grant of Approval for conducting Vocational Education Programme, Community College courses and Skill Knowledge Providers under the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) Regulations, 2012. The above skill framework addresses the problems of skilled manpower and youth unemployment. To enhance the employability of engineering students, the AICTE also implements various schemes such as Finishing Schools for students, Innovation Programme schemes etc.

The UGC has also notified a Bachelor of Vocation degree (B.Voc). The framework provides for multiple pathways and exit options after every certificate level so that a student can opt to drop out at any certificate level and be employed at a certain job role within a sector and come back into education if he/she so desires. The UGC is implementing a scheme of Career Oriented Courses in Universities and Colleges under which it provides financial assistance to universities/Colleges for the introduction of career oriented courses at the certificate/diploma/advance diploma levels, which run concurrently with conventional degree courses like the Bachelors of Arts/Science/Commerce etc.

Model Schools at block level

681. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up Model Schools at block level in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of these schools; and
- (c) whether Government would upgrade the existing schools or new schools would be opened under this scheme?

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

(b) The Government has decided to set up 6,000 model schools at the rate of one school per block as benchmark of excellence. Out of these, 3,500 schools are to set up through the respective State/UT Government in Educationally Backward

Blocks (EBBs) and the remaining 2,500 schools are to be set up under the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward. The model schools are to be set up based on the Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) template with infrastructure and faculty as per norms of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

(c) The scheme envisages the setting up of new schools as well as the upgradation of the existing schools into model schools under both the components viz. model school under the State sector component and model school under the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode.

Monitoring of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

682. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a State-of-the-art system to monitor the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme on a real-time basis in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details in this regard along with the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Government has developed the infrastructure for monitoring of the said system in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to cover Government-aided schools, local bodies schools, National Child Labour Project Schools and madrasas/maqtabas under the said scheme in various States; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Ministry has launched a web-enabled Management Information System for the monitoring of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme. All the States/UTs have entered their annual and monthly data entry into the portal. The data relating to key indicators of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is available on the portal.

(b) The Salient Features/Benefits of the MDM-MIS Project are as under:—

(i) Availability of school-wise data on the enrolment of children, children-availed MDM, utilization of food grains, utilization of funds etc.