

(c) and (d) An expert Nutrition Committee has been set up with Dr. Prema Ram Chandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India as its Chairperson for assessing the adequacy, improving the quality and the safety of the Mid-day Meal served in schools with the following terms of reference:-

- i) To examine the current norms for quantity and quality of food stuffs to be used in MDM for nutrient adequacy.
  - ii) To assess the nutrient adequacy of the varying menus currently used for providing MDM in different States.
  - iii) To examine current guidelines for food safety of hot cooked meal served in MDM in rural settings where food is cooked in individual schools and in the metro settings where food is cooked in centralized kitchens and transported to the schools.
  - iv) To develop systems for continuous monitoring of quantity and quality of food stuffs used in cooking MDM and food safety in MDM in urban and rural areas.
  - v) To estimate the cost of establishing and operating the monitoring system developed under point (iv) above.
  - vi) To assess the feasibility of providing nutrition education messages using MDM as the focus.
  - (vii) To suggest measures for convergence between school health and MDM for assessment of nutritional status of school children and provide appropriate interventions for management of under and over nutrition in children.
- (e) The Committee is yet to complete its deliberations and submit a report.

#### **Hostels under SSA in Andhra Pradesh**

1313. SHRI DEVENDERA GOUD T: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals received from Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up of hostels under SSA since 2004-05, year-wise; and
- (b) the details of action taken on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Hostels/Residential facilities under the SSA are being provided for children in sparsely populated or hilly and densely-forested areas with difficult geographical terrains, and also to cover urban deprived children, homeless & street children and children without adult protection. As per the records available with the Ministry, no proposal was received by the period between 2007-08 to 2010-11 from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, the proposals for 63 residential schools in 2011-12, 188 hostels/residential schools in 2012-13 and 28 hostels/residential schools in 2013-14 were received. Since the inception of SSA in 2001-02, a total of 31 hostels/residential schools (4 in 2010-11 and 27 in 2012-13) have been approved for Andhra Pradesh. The Project Approval Board (PAB) has approved Rs. 74.88 lakh in 2010-11, Rs. 566.78 lakh in 2011-12, Rs. 1189.30 lakh in 2012-13 and Rs. 831.55 lakh in 2013-14 towards meeting the recurring/nonrecurring cost for Hostels/ Residential schools in Andhra Pradesh under SSA.

#### **Low standards of universities**

†1314. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that universities set up during the last 50 years are lagging far behind the global standards, with respect to education, research etc.;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is planning to upgrade the deteriorating level of education and research in the Universities of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some universities set up during the last 50 years are indeed lagging behind global standards. Universities in India are set up either by an Act of Parliament, by an Act of State Legislature or conferred the status of a Deemed-to-be University under section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956. The Central Government ensures that the proper quality of teaching, learning and research is maintained in all Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.