

Education (CABE). As per the aforementioned reports the rationale for including the Board marks for entry into Professional Colleges was to reduce the impact of private coaching on selection by giving weightage to school performance and to promote more inclusion.

(e) In view of above, this question does not arise.

Systemic failure of Mid Day Meal Scheme

1756. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Mid Day Meal tragedy is just one of several systemic failures that have come to light;

(b) whether reports of contaminated Mid Day Meals and drinking water are pouring in from all over the country; and

(c) if so, what steps Government is taking to appoint a new committee to look into these egregious failures and put the systems in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Bihar Mid Day Meal tragedy is a case of gross negligence by the head teacher in allowing the use of organophosphate-contaminated oil for cooking and not tasting the meal before serving it to the children. She is also charged with gross negligence in fleeing from the school after the incident and not ensuring the timely provision of medical facilities to the affected children.

(b) In the last one year 12 complaints of contaminated Mid-Day Meals have been received. However, no case of contamination of drinking water has come to the notice of the MHRD.

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to set up Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister with eminent experts from various disciplines with following Terms of Reference:-

- (i) Access, safety, hygiene and quality aspects in the implementation of the MDMS.
- (ii) Mechanisms in place for ensuring convergence with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Food and Public Distribution, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj etc.
- (iii) Governance mechanisms in place and their effectiveness in the implementation of MDMS.
- (iv) Review mechanisms in place to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the scheme.
- (v) Mechanisms in place for community participation in the Scheme and its effective monitoring.

The Committee will meet at least once in a quarter.

Shortage of teachers in Tamil Nadu

1757. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of teachers in colleges/universities in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the universities there are not able to meet the demand of industry and institutions for IT professionals; and
- (c) what steps Government would take to provide suitable IT professionals in that State and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the report of the Task Force on 'Faculty Shortage and Design of Performance Appraisal System' under the chairmanship of Prof. Sanjay Dhande, about 34.4% of the faculty positions in the State Universities and Colleges of Tamil Nadu are vacant.