

(b) No, Sir. As per information provided by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), there are sufficient numbers of seats available in AICTE-approved institutions in Computer Engineering and Information Technology (IT) both at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels in the country including Tamil Nadu.

(c) The model curriculum for Computer Science and Engineering has been designed by AICTE, keeping in view the requirement of the IT industry. The AICTE also supports proposals from approved institutes for imparting training to improve their employability through 'Finishing Schools', which aim at equipping the students with industry relevant skills including those required in the IT industry.

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is a joint project of the seven older Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at Madras, Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Guwahati and Roorkee and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. The NPTEL's goal is to create and disseminate high quality content for online learning. The NPTEL, along with the National Associations Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and software companies Cognizant, Infosys and Tata. Consultancy Service (TCS), has designed online courses in three Computer Science streams, *i.e.* Programming, Algorithms and Data Structures, for employment in the Information Technology (IT) sector and other hi-tech industries.

#### **Outsourcing of Mid Day Meal supply**

1758. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been outsourcing the flagship programme to sundry NGOs for supplying Mid Day Meals in schools;

(b) if so, the number of NGOs engaged by the Central Government/State Governments specially in Maharashtra during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of criteria fixed by Government for engaging NGOs under this programme; and

(d) the details of cases, where the norms were flouted by NGOs in providing meals by cutting the prescribed costs and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Mid-Day Meal Guidelines emphasize the promotion of school-based cooking in kitchens-cum-stores in the school with the help of cooks-cum-helpers through local Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Self-Help Group (SHGs), Mothers' organisations and the local community. NGOs/Trusts/Centralized kitchens may however, be engaged for serving the meal to the children of the schools located in the urban areas and where there is no space for the construction of a kitchen-cum-store in the school premises. The information on the number of NGOs engaged by the State Governments is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Mid Day Meal Guidelines have laid down the following criteria for engaging NGOs:-

- (i) The decision to award the supply work to an NGO will be taken by a body empowered by the State Government, *e.g.* the Gram Panchayat, VEC/SMC/PTA, Municipal Committee/Corporation, etc.
- (ii) The agency should be a body registered under the Societies Registration Act or the Public Trust Act, and should have been in existence for a minimum period of two years. It should have a properly constituted Managing/Governing Body with its powers and duties clearly defined in its constitution.
- (iii) A contract/MoU between the NGO and the local authority responsible for engaging the NGOs shall be signed to define the liabilities of the parties and the consequence of non performance on their parts. It should also include a stringent mechanism to check and supervise the quality and quantity of meal supplied by the NGO to the children.
- (iv) The chosen supplier shall supply the mid-day meal on a no-profit basis

and shall not entrust/sub-contract the programme or divert any part of the assistance.

- (v) The performance of such NGOs engaged in serving MDMS to children should be assessed every year through a credible system of evaluation. The renewal of the MOU with a NGO for the next year should depend on its performance being found satisfactory in the current year.

(d) Six complaints of violation of MDM norms by NGOs have come to the notice of MHRD. These complaints were referred to the respective States for investigation and report. In four of these cases, the State Governments have made proportionate recoveries from the bills of the concerned NGOs.

***Statement***

*Details of information on the number of NGOs engaged by the State Government for outsourcing of Mid Day Meal Supply*

Sl.No.	State	No. of NGOs engaged in 2013-14	No. of NGOs engaged in 2012-13	No. of NGOs engaged in 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	10	9
2.	Assam	1	0	0
3.	Bihar	14	18	31
4.	Chhattisgarh	3	3	3
5.	Gujarat	7	5	4
6.	Haryana	4	4	0
7.	Jharkhand	2	0	0
8.	Karnataka	102	105	106

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7	7	7
10.	Maharashtra	3	3	3
11.	Odisha	7	4	1
12.	Punjab	5	2	2
13.	Rajasthan	21	0	0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	185	373	357
15.	West Bengal	57	11	9
16.	Delhi	21	24	27
TOTAL		447	569	559

#### Controversy on NCERT/CBSE text books

1759. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain contents in NCERT/CBSE text books had generated controversy recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to remove those controversial lessons/sections from the books;

(d) whether Government has set up any committee to review those text books from the point of view of identifying educationally inappropriate materials, and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government has received the report of the said committee, if so, the details thereof, the follow-up action taken thereon and the implementation of the report?