

the strengthening of existing schools, the appointment of teachers, the construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, hostel facilities for girls, special coaching classes for minority girls, teacher sensitization programmes and separate toilet blocks for girls. In addition, a Girls' Hostel Scheme, the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), exemption from paying tuition fee in Kendriya Vidyalayas, and 33% reservation for girls in Navodaya Vidyalayas, are also being implemented.

The University Grant Commission (UGC) has undertaken several schemes for the benefit of girls and women, which include the Construction of Women's Hostels, Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education, Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarship Scheme for Single Girl Child and a fellowship for single girl child for taking up research in science departments, which have been covered under the Basic Scientific Research (BSR) programme.

(c) The Ministry had conducted a study on Student Attendance rates at elementary level in 2007 while another such national study has been commissioned in 2012.

Inclusion of Human Rights in school curriculum

567. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand to include Human Rights in school curriculum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has agreed to include it in the school curriculum; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The National Curriculum Framework, 2005 has already introduced the concept of "Human Rights" in school education. The textbooks in social sciences have integrated, in various chapters and through examples, a sense of respect for Human Rights. The NCERT has also prepared a syllabus of human rights for the higher secondary stage. The Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) follow syllabi published by the NCERT. The Board has decided to offer an elective course on "Human Rights and Gender Studies" for classes XI-XII. This elective will be offered at a pilot

stage for the CBSE affiliated schools in session 2013-14 and as a regular elective from session 2014-15 onwards.

Extension of MDMS

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

(a) whether Government provides meals to children studying in class I-VIII in various educational schools/centres supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of targets fixed under MDMS for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and the extent to which such targets have been achieved during the said period;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend the scheme in private unaided schools located in the SC, ST and Minority concentration districts in various States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Mid-Day-Meal Scheme covers children of classes I-VIII studying in Government, Local Body, Government aided and National Child Labour Project schools and the centres run under the Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres including Madarasas/Maktabs supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(c) The details of children approved for coverage and the average number of children covered during 2011-12 and 2012-13 are as under:—

Children	2011-12	2012-13
Approved number of children (in crore)*	11.07	10.96
Average number of children covered (in crore.)*	10.54	10.43

*Primary and Upper Primary combined

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission has now agreed to extend the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme to 11.75 million children in 54233 private unaided schools in Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Minority concentration districts.