

**Availability of trained and qualified teachers**

349. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of introduction of so many programmes/schemes, like SSA, there is still a need for trained and qualified teachers which is mandatory under the Right to Education Act;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for arriving at such a conclusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates that the academic authority as notified by the Central Government will lay down minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible as a teacher. The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) has been notified as the academic authority in this regard and it has laid down the qualifications for eligibility as a teacher.

Pre-service teacher training is imparted through 593 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET's), 118 Central Institutes of Education Technology (CIETs), 35 Institutes of Advance Studies in Education (IASes), 40 University Departments of Education and 12,689 teacher training institutions in the private sector in the country, through providing Diploma in Education (D.Ed) and Bachelor in Education (B.Ed) courses. More recently, the Government of India under its Teacher Education Scheme has also decided to create Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITes) in order to enable SC/ST and minority candidates to enter block level teacher training institutions, of which 97 have been sanctioned in 2012-13 and 2013-14. It is also notable that many States have revised their Teacher Education Curriculum along the lines of National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2009, while others are in the process of revising their curricula.

**Food poisoning in MDMS**

350. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food poisoning cases that have arisen since the inception of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS);

(b) the action taken against those food providers which were responsible for the food poisoning;

(c) the frequency of hygiene/quality checks of the kitchen in which the food is cooked; and

(d) whether Government has considered making food fortification compulsory, as a part of MDMS and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Hot cooked meals are being served under the MDMS from 2004-05 onwards; as per records of the MHRD, 65 cases of children falling ill after consuming Mid-Day-Meal have been reported since then.

(b) The action taken has included a warning to the concerned NGO and officers responsible, the initiation of departmental proceedings against the Principal and Inspector, the suspension of erring officials, the registration of criminal cases against the concerned staff/contractor for negligence, the cancellation of the contract of the supplier, the changing of cooks where required, and compensating children as per the directions of the court.

(c) The Mid-Day-Meal Guidelines stipulate that on an average 25% of the Primary Schools and EGS/AIE Centres should be visited in every quarter, and all Primary Schools and EGS/AIE Centres should be visited at least once every year. In addition inspections are carried out by 41 independent Monitoring Institutions such as IIT, Chennai, Viswa Bharti and XLRI Jamshedpur. The Government of India have also deputed 16 Joint Review Missions for an indepth assessment of the Scheme in 16 States of the country during the current year.

(d) The States have been asked to use double fortified salt for the MDMS.

#### **Scholarship scheme for students of Jammu and Kashmir**

351. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scholarship scheme for the students of Jammu and Kashmir to pursue the degree courses under various institutes recognized by AICTE;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of students applied/availed benefits thereof during the last three years;

(c) the details of applications received by Government for AICTE scholarships for academic year 2013-14;

(d) the details of students granted scholarships under the scheme;