(c) the response time likely to be taken in alerting the people of the country about any possible threat of tsunami or earthquake?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) was established and made fully functional since 2007 and is now rendering operational services as a Regional Tsunami Watch Provider (RTWP) for whole of the Indian Ocean Region by the Earth System Science Organization - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Sciences (ESSO-INCOIS) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences located in Hyderabad. ITEWC comprises real-time seismic monitoring network of 17 broadband seismic stations apart from other national and international seismic stations to detect under-sea tsunamigenic earthquakes from the two known subduction zones of Andaman-Sumatra and Makran in Indian Ocean which can potentially affect entire Indian coastal states and Island regions, a network of 6 real-time sea-level sensors with Bottom Pressure Recorders (BPR) in the open ocean, HF Radars for coastal currents and 25 coastal tide gauge stations to capture tsunami wave speed and amplitude on 24 X 7 basis. All types of data collected from the ITEWC are fully archived and is fully accessible to the Decision Support System (DSS). A host of communication systems are being employed for timely dissemination of advisories.

(c) The centre is capable of detecting tsunamigenic earthquakes occurring in the Indian Ocean region as well as in the Global Oceans within 10 minutes of their occurrence and disseminates the advisories to the concerned authorities within 20 minutes through various modes of communication like email, fax, SMS, GTS and website.

Impact of MDMS

1914. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) was launched with the objective of improving enrolment, attendance and retention, while simultaneously improving the nutritional status of students in primary classes;

(b) how many Government schools are implementing this scheme; and

(c) how this scheme has helped in improving the enrolment, attendance and retention of students in the schools at both primary and secondary level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) covers 10.68 crore children studying in classes I-VIII in 12.12 lakh Government, Government aided, Local Body and National Child Labour Project Schools, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres including Madarsas and Maqtabs supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(c) The enrollment at the primary level has increased from 13.18 in 2006-07 to 13.48 crores in 2012-13. At the upper primary level it has gone up from 4.75 to 6.49 crores during the same period. Studies have also shown that attendance has gone up from 68.5 to 76.2% at the primary level and 75.7 to 77.8% at the upper primary level during the same period. The retention ratio at the primary level has increased from 73.42% in 2010-11 to 80.07% in 2012-13.

The enrolment and retention of children in schools depend on several factors including Government interventions in the field of education, health and nutrition, as well as demographic changes and the level of economic development. The MDMS is also one of the important contributory factors for the increase in enrolment and retention levels.

Engineering and technology seats

1915. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial addition to engineering and technology seats during the last year, across colleges all over the country;

(b) whether the number of vacant seats in engineering and technology institutions are far higher than addition in capacity;

(c) whether a number of graduates from colleges of engineering and technology find themselves unemployable; and

(d) whether there is regional imbalance in engineering/technology institutions as most of these are concentrated in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra?