

for Ultra Mega Power Projects). In case of 42 coal blocks (37 producing and 05 likely to come under production), cancellation shall take effect from 31.03.2015.

For management and re-allocation of cancelled coal blocks, Government has promulgated 'the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014' on 21.10.2014 to ensure smooth transfer of rights, title and interests in the mines/blocks alongwith its land and other associated mining infrastructure to the new allottees to be selected through an auction or allotment to government company, as the case may be. The allocation of coal blocks would now be made in pursuance of the provisions of Ordinance and Rules made thereunder in a time bound manner to ensure that there is no disruption in supply of coal. The auction of coal blocks is decided to be carried out in e-auction mode in order to keep the process transparent.

Publication of Devolution Index

*113. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Devolution Index for 2013 has been, or is likely to be, released and if not, by when; and

(b) whether the Ministry proposes to continue publishing bi-annual reports on the state of Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) The Devolution Index for the year 2013-14 has been published. Soft copy of the report is available on the website of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

(b) No proposal for publishing bi-annual reports on the state of panchayats is under consideration in the Ministry.

Irregularities in Mid Day Meal Scheme

†*114. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale irregularities have come to the light in the quality of food being served to children under the Mid Day Meal Scheme in the schools of the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of samples taken for quality testing of food under the Scheme by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi this year and the number of samples out of them not found as per the norms; and

(d) the details of action taken against the irregularities found in quality of food being served to children under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (d) The Government of Delhi has reported that in 2014, 142 food samples have been lifted and analysed from various kitchens of service providers and schools till date, out of which 119 samples were found to have less nutritional value than the prescribed norms.

The Government of Delhi has taken action in the form of proportionate deduction from the payment due to service providers towards cooking costs, where samples did not meet the norms. From July, 2010 onwards, ₹ 7.73 crore has been deducted on account of proportionate deduction from the service providers. The Government of NCT Delhi has also terminated contracts in case of (i) Ekta Shakti Foundation (ii) The People Welfare Society (iii) Indcare Trust and (iv) Royal Educational and Social Welfare Society on account of failing on microbiological parameters on sample testing.

Certification courses for rural youth

*115. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has approved any programme to make rural youth employable through certification courses with bench-mark of international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Rural Youth Internship Programme would give youth the opportunity to get employment in different countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has revamped the placement linked skill development scheme for rural poor youth (known as Aajeevika Skills) under National Rural Livelihood Mission, as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). The scheme allows skilling of rural youth under certification from National Council for Vocational Training and Sector Skills Councils. The Sector Skills Councils standards in four sectors, *i.e.* Automotive, Telecom, Healthcare and Information Technology have been identified for developing as Transnational Standards for potential foreign placements.