

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.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The DDU-GKY scheme provides for a 12-month Industry Internship skilling initiative for rural poor youth leading to domestic placements. The scheme separately provides for prioritizing skilling projects to be undertaken for skilling rural poor youth for foreign placements.

Methodology to ensure quality of teachers

*116. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in more methods in the line of Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) to strengthen the objectives that aim at ensuring quality of teachers in all schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the comprehensive steps taken to increase the quality of teachers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI) : (a) to (c) The Government of India under Section 23(1) of RTE Act 2009 has declared National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) as the Academic Authority for prescribing qualification for teachers. In this capacity, NCTE has laid down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as teacher in class I to VIII and the need to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). The State Governments, as the Appropriate Government under the RTE Act conduct TET in their jurisdiction, while the Central Teacher Eligibility Test is conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on behalf of the Central Government for Government of NCT of Delhi and other Union Territories.

In addition, in compliance of the recommendations of the Justice Verma Commission report on improving quality of Teacher Education, the NCTE is in the process of revamping teacher education programmes in order to improve the quality of teacher education programmes such as D.El.Ed., B.El.Ed; B.Ed, M.Ed.etc.

Further, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), in-service teacher training is provided to government elementary and secondary school teachers on an annual basis to improve their capacities.