

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) The Government of NCT Delhi has reported that Shriram Institute for Industrial Research has been engaged for testing of the food samples. The Government of NCT Delhi has also reported that while food samples taken on dry basis earlier had passed the tests for nutritional and calorific values, the testing on wet basis *i.e.* on actuals received, introduced since 2010, has resulted in 88% of the samples not meeting the nutritional and calorific values. The number of instances and children affected after consuming mid day meals are 4 and 202 respectively since 2011.

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. 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.

#### **Quality of education in Government schools**

1602. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken to improve the quality of education in Government schools stipulated in RTE Act;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Act is meant to regulate private educational institutions to provide 25 per cent of seats and also to improve the standards of Government schools;

(c) the reasons for not initiating any action to improve the infrastructure and academic standards in Government schools as per the Act;

(d) whether it is not discriminatory to regulate private schools and not Government schools; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the infrastructure and standards in Government schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The Government of India has financially supported State/ UT Governments to implement the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, by augmenting school infrastructure, introducing Continuous and

Comprehensive Evaluation, and improved teacher pupil ratios. The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE), as the academic authority under the RTE Act has laid down minimum qualifications and passing of the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for a person to be recruited as a teacher at elementary level.

(b) Under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, a school shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory education till its completion.

(c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(d) The RTE Act provisions are applicable for Government, Government aided and private schools for classes I-VIII.

(e) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), till 30th September, 2014, 2,02,112 primary schools and 1,55,390 upper primary schools have been opened, and buildings for 1,77,432 primary and 1,02,628 upper primary schools have been constructed. In addition, 16,29,990 additional classrooms, 8,17,036 toilets have been constructed, and drinking water facility has been provided in 2,25,440 schools. A total of 19.85 lakh teacher posts have been sanctioned under SSA at elementary level to improve the PTR, against which 15.06 lakh teacher posts have been filled up. States/UTs are also supported for distribution of free textbooks to all children, two sets of uniforms to all girls, SC/ST and BPL boys, providing academic support through Block Resource Centre and Cluster Resource Centre as well as for a focussed programme to improve learning outcomes such as Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat.

#### **Research-oriented and qualitative education**

†1603. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether research-oriented and qualitative education has been lacking in the universities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to raise standard of the research-oriented and qualitative education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The augmentation of research and development infrastructure in the university system is an ongoing endeavour. Rapid changes in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.