

included Education in the Concurrent List, was a far-reaching step whose implications — substantive, financial and administrative — required a new sharing of responsibilities between the Union Government and the States in respect of development of education. While the role and responsibilities of the States in regard to education has remained unchanged, the Union Government has accepted a larger responsibility to reinforce the national and integrative character of education, to maintain quality and standards, to study and monitor the educational requirements of the country as a whole in regard to manpower for development, cater to the needs of the research and advanced study, to look after the international aspects of education, culture and Human Resource Development and, in general, to promote excellence at all levels of the educational pyramid throughout the country.

Thereafter, Government came up with the National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE) after a comprehensive appraisal of the then existing educational scene, followed by consultation with all stakeholders including State Governments. NPE, as modified in 1992, has been the guiding document for the policies of the Central Government in the education sector which provides for National System of Education implying that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. The National System of Education is based on a National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 which has been accepted in most parts of the country.

Any Committee constituted by the Ministry is advised to adhere to the provisions of existing NPE.

Mid day meal in schools

†2378. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE :Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Government schools, students and teachers pass their time in cooking and eating of mid-day meal only, instead of undertaking academic activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether guardians send their wards to schools just for eating mid day meal and not for studies;

(d) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding the quality of food served to students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) The MDM Guidelines envisage that the role of the teacher is to supervise the preparation of the mid-day meal by the cook-cum-helpers and its serving to the children in an orderly manner and taste the meal before it is served to be children. As per the MDM Guidelines, there is no role for students in serving or cooking of Mid Day Meals. The Mid Day Meal Scheme benefit 10.80 crore children in 11.58 lakh schools during 2013-14. Many studies have reported that Mid Day Meal Scheme has positive impact in improvement of the educational indicators. Besides, 38 Monitoring Institutes and several Joint Review Missions consisting of experts and Government representatives conduct studies in the States on a regular basis and their findings are shared with the concerned State Government for improvements in the Scheme.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Gujarat

2379. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for failure on the part of Gujarat Government in implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as reported by C.A.G. in Report No. 5 of the year 2014;

(b) whether Government is aware that as reported by Audit, (i) schools had no all-weather buildings, (ii) schools were without adequate class rooms and (iii) schools were without separate toilets for boys and girls etc.; and

(c) what actions are taken by the Minister in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) As reported by Government of Gujarat, there is no failure on the part of State Government in implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). All the schools in the State have all weather buildings except those in the reserved forest area, where prior permission of the forest department is required for construction of the building.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has sanctioned 3300 Additional Classrooms, 983 boys toilets and 1967 girls toilets during 2014-15, out of which 153 works have been completed so far.

Poor quality of food in MDMS

2380. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a large number of complaints concerning