

had written to all Government of India Ministries, State Governments, Members of Parliament and other stakeholders inviting comments/views/suggestions. Both these documents have been treated as inputs to education policy formulation.

Complaints on NAAC audits

544. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received complaints of biasness or discrepancy in relation to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) audits of private universities and colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise since 2014;

(c) whether the Ministry plans to scrap NAAC audits and move to self-disclosure for all universities and colleges for grading; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the institutional method to verify claims with ground reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): (a) and (b) No specific complaint of biasness or discrepancy in relation to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) audits of private universities and colleges in the country has been received. However, as reported by University Grants Commission (UGC), NAAC receives a few Assessment and Accreditation related complaints/grievances which are generally with reference to the internal functioning of the applicant University. NAAC has established a complaint resolution mechanism where such complaints/grievances are captured, analysed and resolved.

(c) and (d) The Union Budget Speech for 2017-18, States that a revised framework will be put in place for outcome based accreditation. In compliance to the announcement, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), has revised its existing accreditation framework of Higher Educational Institutions, after extensive stakeholder consultations, with a view to make it robust, objective, transparent and outcome oriented. The new methodology is a combination of quantitative and qualitative aspects, largely based on quantitative data capture and system generated pre-qualifier scores followed by a qualitative assessment through on-site peer review. As per the revised

framework, the outcome of online data assessment, student survey results and peer evaluation will determine the accreditation status of applicant Higher Educational Institutions. This framework will ensure increased objectivity and transparency in assessment and accreditation processes in the Higher Educational Institutions.

Preparation and distribution of mid day meals through NGOs

545. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has handed over the task of preparing and distributing mid day meals to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);

(b) the details of States and districts where the task has been transferred to NGO workers, in part or whole, currently;

(c) the number of non-NGO workers who have received honorarium from Government for running the scheme since 2014, till date; and

(d) whether the Ministry would provide alternative forms of employment for workers displaced from Mid Day Meal Scheme within other schemes run by the Ministry and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) The Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented in partnership with the States/UTs. The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious mid day meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Apart from school-based kitchens, the MDM guidelines provide for centralized kitchens run by NGOs for urban areas where there is space constraint. Recently, Mid Day Meal Rules-2015 were amended and notified *vide* GSR No.471 (E) dated 16th May, 2017. The amendment provides that every school shall have the facility for cooking meal in hygienic manner and the schools in urban areas and in identified rural areas which have good road connectivity and viable cluster of schools, for the purpose of leveraging efficiency gains, may use the facility of centralised kitchens for cooking meals wherever required in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government and the meal shall be served to children at respective school only. The details of States and districts where the task has been entrusted to NGOs is given in the Statement (*See below*).