

notified on 09.07.2019 to ensure preparation of rosters by considering the University as a 'Unit'.

UGC has prepared the Guidelines for Recruitment of Faculty in Universities, Colleges and Institutions Deemed to be Universities outlining the selection procedure and the time frame for recruitment which has been circulated to all Universities on 4th June, 2019 for its adherence. The Universities have also been requested to take steps to ensure that the vacancies in the University as well as in the Colleges affiliated to University are filled up at the earliest. Further, UGC again requested on 31st July, 2019, 7th August, 2019, 5th September, 2019 and 22nd October, 2019 to ensure that vacant positions in University as well as colleges affiliated to university are filled at the earliest and the status of the recruitment process is uploaded on the University Activity Monitoring Portal of UGC.

Besides this, a number of other steps taken to fill up the vacant teaching posts include regular monitoring by Ministry/UGC, review during various meetings including Visitor's Conference, providing of Visitor's nominees for Selection Committees, increase in age of superannuation to 65 years, re-employment of retired teachers beyond the age of 65 years, etc.

Mid-day meals in Government schools

546. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mid-day meals in Government schools failed to meet the set standards of nutritional values and also the community kitchens introduced to make a basic balanced meal accessible to the poor might have at times led to diseases and infections due to compromised hygienic conditions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for effective implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) Mid Day Meal is provided in Government schools as per the standards of nutritional values. However, a total of 13 complaints were reported regarding poor quality of food in implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme during the last two years and current year. Respective State Governments and Union

Territories (UTs) Administrations were requested to furnish Action Taken Report (ATR) on the complaints. As per the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) received from 6 States and UTs, the details of action taken on these complaints are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious Mid Day Meal to the eligible children lies with State Governments and UT Administrations. Further, for effective implementation of the Scheme, the Government of India has also issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene to all the States and UTs. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, provide for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals, tasting of meals by 2-3 adult members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving to children and to put in place a system of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories. Further, the MDM Rules, 2015 provide for mandatory testing of food samples by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet nutritional standards and quality. The Government has also adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children under the Scheme.

Statement

*Action Taken on complaints regarding poor quality under
Mid-day Meal Scheme*

| Sl. No. | Type of Action | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Total |
|---------|---|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. | Departmental action (including warning, transfer, suspension) and action against service providers/complaint substantiated by State Govt. | 3 | 5 | 0 | 8 |
| 2. | General corrective action, including issue of instructions to the concerned, by State Govt./GOI. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 3. | Baseless, not proved, not related to MDM | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| TOTAL | | 6 | 7 | 0 | 13 |