

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether the Ministry would take steps to make the provision of eggs compulsory in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented in partnership with the States and UTs. The overall responsibilities for providing cooked and nutritious mid-day meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The States and UTs fix their menu as per their local needs, in order to meet the prescribed nutritional content.

Reservation in private schools empanelled under RTE

2146. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Total number of private schools in the country;

(b) the percentage of reserved seats that are occupied by children eligible under the RTE in private schools for the years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-2020; and

(c) what is the percentage of cost-sharing to reimburse these schools between the Centre and the State?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2017-18 (provisional), the number of Private recognised schools in the country is 295233.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, mandates the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school. Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 provides for admission of children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the schools specified in sub-clauses (iii) and (iv) of clause (n) of section 2 in Class I (or earlier) to the extent of at least 25 percent of the strength of that class. The number of students admitted under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act in the year 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are 29,25,303, 34,84,019 and 41,35,015 respectively.

For implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, the respective State and UT Government- appropriate government under the RTE Act are required to notify the disadvantaged groups and weaker sections, notify per child cost and start admissions in private un-aided schools as per the procedure laid down by the concerned State and UT Government.

Section 12(2) of RTE Act also provides for reimbursement to the Private Unaided Schools for admitting children under Section 12(1)(c). The reimbursement is based on the per-child expenditure notified by the State or the actual amount charged by the school, whichever is less. The reimbursement towards expenditure incurred for 25% admissions in private unaided schools under Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act is supported under Samagra Shiksha, subject to a maximum ceiling of 20% of the TOTAL Annual Work Plan and Budget approved by the Government of India for a State/UT under the Scheme. The reimbursement for this purpose is based on the proof of actual payment made to schools by the States. The fund approved for reimbursement to the States/UTs is a part of the overall allocation under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha for a given year which is shared between Centre and States/ UTs as per the applicable fund sharing pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance.

Relaxation in CBSE norms for new Government Schools

2147. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many Government and nongovernmental CBSE courses are running in the entire country including Goa; and

(b) whether the Ministry will take steps to make provision for opening of new Government schools by relaxing the rules, with specific focus on the rural areas, in view of the increasing interest of students in the CBSE course in rural areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) The CBSE has informed that in the entire country including Goa, one common curriculum is being followed in all schools affiliated to CBSE including Government and non-government schools.

(b) At present, out of a Total 22,275 schools affiliated to CBSE, there are 4,441 Government schools including government aided, Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV), Navodaya