

[7 March, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

श्री सभापति : आप विवरण इनको दे दीजिए ।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : जी हां, मैं दे दूंगा।

*258. *[The questioner (Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah) was absent For answer vide page 44—52 infra].*

*259. *[The questioner (Shri ftaju Parmar) was absent. For answer vide page 53-54 infra].*

*260. *[The questioners (Shri J. Chitharanjan and Shri Gaya Singh) were absent. For answer vide page 54 infra],*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Member, you can put Question No. 246.

Mid-day meal scheme

@*246 SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mid-day meal scheme for primary schools has run into difficulties because the Food Corporation of India has threatened to stop supplies unless HRD Ministry pays up its arrears amounting to Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has not so far paid the amount required by the FCI; and

(c) if so, to what extent the FCI has stopped supplies and steps Government propose to take to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had

@Hon'ble Chairman allowed Shri Eduardo Faleiro to ask the question on the floor fo the House.

informed this Ministry that this issue of foodgrains from Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme will be stopped to credit basis with effect from 1st February, 2003 and such foodgrains will be issued either on advance payment or on cash and carry basis. Following discussions with that Ministry the supply of foodgrains is continuing uninterrupted.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that a lot of poor children going to the so called schools, collect food or grains, sell them in the market and go home because there are no teachers, there are no schools and there are no books. In view of the fact that the Budget does not allot you enough funds for the Sarvshiksha Abhiyan and other programmes, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister intends to approach the World Bank to fund our elementary education.

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : श्री मन्, मैंने बहुत पहले ही, जब दूसरे प्रश्न का उत्तर था, उसमें बता दिया था कि क्या स्थिति है, हमने कितने करोड़ रुपया दिया है, कितने विद्यालयों के भवन बनाए हैं, क्या-क्या किया है। जहां तक इस प्रश्न का सवाल है कि बच्चों के पास भोजन का अभाव है, इस संबंध में मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि वित्त मंत्रालय से बातचीत होने के बाद, खाद्य आपूर्ति मंत्रालय से बातचीत होने के बाद इस समस्या का निवारण हो गया है और अब कोई दिक्कत इस मध्याह्न भोजन योजना में है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERSTO STARRED QUESTIONS

Agreement for deep sea sand mining

*241. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Kerala entered into an agreement with a private firm for deep sea sand mining;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala sought the opinion of Central agencies on the environmental impact before signing agreement;