GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2016

Quality of Education

†1963. SHRI OM BIRLA:

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

(a)   whether the Government is aware that the responsibility to deal with the administrative aspects of the Mid-day Meal scheme also lies with teachers which has affected the quality of teaching in such schools;

(b)   if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for bringing improvement in the quality of education;

(c)   whether the Government has issued any direction in this regard to States for the appointment of one clerk in each Government school and if so, the details thereof;

(d)   the present teacher-student ratio in primary and upper-primary level;

(e)   whether the present ratio is as per international norms; and

(f)   the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): The Mid Day Meal Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in partnership with States/UTs. A total of 25.52 lakhs cook-cum-helpers have been engaged by the States/UTs under the scheme during 2015-16. The Guidelines of the scheme envisage that teachers should not be assigned responsibilities that will impede or interfere with teaching learning.   The teachers are to ensure that the mid day meal is served in an orderly manner within specified time (recess period) and the quality and hygiene of food served is maintained. Except the above supervisory responsibility, there is no other role/responsibility of the teachers in the preparation of the mid day meal. Therefore, the teaching learning activities are not affected due to serving of mid-day meal.

(b)&(c): Quality education and improvement in learning levels at the elementary stage is one of the key objectives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is a centrally sponsored scheme. Some of the important initiatives taken are as under:

(i) The State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions under SSA to improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teachers' training, induction training for newly recruited teachers, training of all untrained teachers to acquire professional qualifications, academic support for teachers through block and cluster resource centres, continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teacher to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc.

(ii) Under SSA, posts of teachers are sanctioned to ensure the stipulated Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) and the Central Government is constantly encouraging the States/UTs to fill up all the posts of teachers and redeploy them to maintain suitable PTR in all schools.

(iii) Government has launched Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB), a sub-programme under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to support States/UTs to improve early grade reading, writing &comprehension and early mathematics in classes I&II.

(iv) The Government has also launched Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA), inter-alia, as a sub-component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), to motivate and engage children of the age group of 6-18 years in Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation, experimentation, inference drawing, model building, etc. both through inside and outside classroom activities.

(v) The NCERT has developed Performance Indicators for Elementary Education (PINDICS) to track teacher performance and attendance in Government schools. PINDICS have been shared with State Governments/UTs to assess teacher's performance.

(d) to (f):As per Unified District Information System of Education (UDISE), 2014-15, the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) for primary and upper primary schools (in Government Schools) is 29:1 and 26:1 respectively.

****