

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 37
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2019**

Economics of Education Review

37. SHRI VASANTHAKUMAR H.:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of Economics of Education review study report that says about Food insecurity at home affecting children's learning and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the report asks for early intervention of Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it may affect country's economy through lower human capital accumulation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken by the Government so far?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) to (d): No, Sir. However, it is stated that Mid-Day Meal Scheme, is an on-going Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided, Special Training Centres including Madarsas and Maqtabs supported under Samagra Shiksha. During 2018-19, 11.98 crore children were enrolled under the Scheme in 11.34 lakh school across the country. A total of 24.95 lakh cook-cum-helpers have been engaged by the States/UTs.

The objectives of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme are to address two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by:

- i. Improving the nutritional status of children studying in classes I – VIII.
- ii. Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
- iii. Providing nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought-affected areas during summer vacation.
