

Misuse of Mid Day Meal fund

1325. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any complaints for misuse of Mid Day Meal Scheme fund across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that about 1.5 cr. kids go hungry alone in Bihar, as Bihar teachers have shunned meal duties; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a total of 27 complaints of the misuse of Mid-Day Meal Scheme funds have been received in this Ministry during 2012 and the current year from the various States/UTs. These complaints were referred to the concerned State Governments, who have taken necessary action in 9 out of the 27 cases. Reports are awaited in 18 cases. The allegations were found to be baseless in 04 cases, while action has been taken by the State Governments in the remaining 05 cases. The action taken included the suspension of erring officials; warnings to the responsible officers; the initiation of departmental proceedings against erring officials, and recovery from the guilty persons.

(c) One faction of Bihar State Primary Teachers Education Sangh decided to boycott non education activities such as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme etc. from 25.07.2013 to 29.07.2013. The impact of this boycott on the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was minimal and interruption was found only in 10% of the 70238 schools where the Mid-Day Meal Scheme is implemented.

(d) The Department of Education of the State Government motivated the teachers to withdraw the boycott and continue their support to the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Vacancy of teachers

1326. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: