

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:366  
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006  
TRANSPARENCY IN MID- DAY- MEAL SCHEME  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to encourage mothers to come forward turn-wise check the preparation and distribution of Mid-Day-Meal;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has issued instructions to the State Governments in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to make Mid-Day- Meal Scheme more transparent and effective?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a),(b)&(c): As efficient management of the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme hinges to a large extent on effective mobilization of community and active involvement of stakeholders, mothers being prime stakeholders in the Mid- Day Meal Programme, have been exhorted to supervise, in turns, the cooking and serving of the meal to the children in schools. This will heighten their awareness about the programme and the entitlements there under. By this simple intervention, crores of mothers would be empowered to exercise effective vigil besides bringing about transparency in implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

The Chief Secretaries and District Collectors have been requested to take personal interest in mobilizing and facilitating the mothers. Similarly, Minister of HRD has addressed the Chief Ministers of States seeking their personal leadership for this new initiative.

(d): Following steps have been taken to make the programme more transparent & effective:-

- (i) The guidelines of the Scheme have been hosted on the Ministry's Website along with details of Central assistance provided during 2005-06.
- (ii) States have been requested to also place detailed information on their Website.
- (iii) A Media campaign has been started to heighten public awareness about the programme.
- (iv) States have been requested to encourage decentralized implementation of the scheme through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Village Education Committees, School Management Committees, Women Self-Help Groups, Youth Clubs, etc.
- (v) Guidelines also provide for constitution of Steering- cum-Monitoring Committees at National, State, District and Block level, consisting of representatives, inter-alia, experts / persons with significant contribution in the areas of nutrition, child welfare, community mobilization, school education, etc.