

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:31
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006
FUNDS FOR MID- DAY MEAL SCHEME
Mohite Shri Subodh;Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to increase the Central Assistance to States and Union Territories for the centrally sponsored national programme on Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all the State Governments are complying with the norms of Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has taken note of the complaints received in the implementation of the scheme; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 31 for answer on 25.7.2006 asked by Shri Subodh Mohite and Shri Dushyant Singh regarding Funds for Mid-day Meal Scheme

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Central Government, in June, 2006, has decided to enhance the cooking cost norm from existing Re. 1 per child per school day to Rs. 1.50 subject to mandatory contribution of minimum fifty paise by States & UTs to reach the overall cost norm of Rs. 2. For the States of North-Eastern Region, the Central assistance would be Rs. 1.80 per child per school day with mandatory minimum contribution of twenty paise by them.

In addition to the above, where convergence with other programmes is not feasible, assistance for construction of kitchen-cum-store and cooking/kitchen devices would be provided from the funds of the Scheme.

(c) & (d): The State Governments have been requested to immediately revise the cooking cost norm and provide necessary funds in the State Budget to meet their share.

(e) & (f): A few complaints, mostly featured in the newspapers, have come to the notice of the Government about inferior quality/unhygienic food and irregular supply of mid-day meal. As the scheme is implemented through State Governments, they have been continuously exhorted to give full attention to the issue of quality and regular supply. A new initiative has been launched w.e.f. 1.1.06 to mobilize mothers to take turns to oversee preparation of meal and feeding of children.