

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:442

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007

CRISIS IN MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Mid-Day Meal Scheme is facing an acute crisis as reported in the Hindustan Times dated September 17, 2007;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has received representations about large irregularities in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in some States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the further steps taken by the Government to implement Mid-Day Meal Scheme in an effective way?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a), (b) & (c): No, Sir. No communication regarding enhancement of prices of wheat and rice for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been received from the Department of Food and Public Distribution. As per the existing terms and conditions, the cost of foodgrains is reimbursed at BPL rates.

(d) & (e): Some complaints about irregularities in the implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme have come to the notice of the Government. Details of the action taken is annexed. As and when complaints come to the notice of the Government, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are asked to conduct suitable enquiry and initiate corrective actions. States/UTs are continuously advised and encouraged to establish systems to avoid recurrence of such incidents and give full attention to the issues of quality and regular supply of food and prevent misuse of resources. States have also been urged to involve the parents, community members, Village Education Committee members and Panchayati Raj Institutions to supervise the cooking and serving of mid day meal to children.