

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1079
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
UNHYGIENIC FOOD UNDER MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that poor quality of food is served to the school children under Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of students fell ill or died after consuming mid-day meal in various parts of the country including Delhi during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (d) the number of suppliers who are catering to schools of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) schools under Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (e) the criteria/norms laid down by the Government for engaging suppliers and arrangements made to check quality of food supplied by them; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Government to ensure

Answer

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

(a) & (b): During the last three years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and the current year 2009-10, 48 incidents of children falling ill due to various reasons like serving of poor quality, unhygienic, poisonous food and supply of adulterated foodgrains under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) came to the notice of the Government from various sources. However, in only 36 cases the States confirmed that 2833 children had fallen ill after consuming mid day meal. The details of the incidents are given in the Annexure.

(c): No case of death of any child after consuming mid-day meal has been reported by any State/UT.

(d): The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that work of supplying of cooked mid day meal to school children under the Mid Day Meal Scheme has been entrusted to eight voluntary organizations.

(e) & (f): Mid Day Meal Scheme Guidelines envisage that voluntary organizations can be associated with the programme for supply of cooked mid day meal and resource support e.g. training and capacity building, monitoring, evaluation and research. The criteria for engaging voluntary organizations is detailed in para 3.9 of the guidelines which inter-alia includes that the voluntary organization

should not discriminate in any manner on the basis of religion, caste and creed

should not use the programme for propagation of any religious practices

should be a registered body under the Societies Registration Act or the Public Trust Act

give a commitment to undertake supply responsibility on a no profit basis

abide by parameters of programme

should have a sound financial logistic capacity to supply mid day meal

should be willing to work with Panchayati Raj Institutions/Municipal Bodies in accordance with relevant guidelines of the State/UT Govt.

shall not entrust/sub-contract the programme or divert any part of the assistance (foodgrains/money) to any other organization

will commit to abide by other conditions as may be prescribed by State/UT Govt.

The overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of good quality, cooked mid day

meal in every eligible school, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres lies with the State Government/UT administration. In order to ensure serving of good quality mid day meal, the Central Government through National, Regional and State level review meetings had been continuously urging the State/UT Governments to:

lift only good quality foodgrains from FCI godowns after joint inspection

store food items in dry and safe places

ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment

properly train cooks for adopting hygienic practices

get the food tasted by 2-3 adults including one teacher

ensure availability of drinking water

involve community in implementation and supervision of the scheme

inspection of 25% school in every quarter by supervisory officers

As and when, any complaint regarding any deficiency in the implementation of the scheme comes to the notice of Central Government from any sources, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct a suitable enquiry into the complaint and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and also to initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.