

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:184

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Pakirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has fixed minimum calorie intake for children under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is regularly monitoring the quantity/calorie intake of children under the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether deficiencies/irregularities in the implementation of the scheme in certain States/UTs have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that all the children get the required calorie intake under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 184 for 10.03.2010 by Shri S. Pakirappa and Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel regarding Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), the Government has fixed 450 calories and 12 grams of protein intake for primary (classes I-V) and 700 calories and 20 grams of protein intake for upper primary (classes VI-VIII) children. The energy and protein requirement is met through food cooked from 100 gms of rice/wheat, 20 gms of pulses, 50 gms of vegetables and 5 gms of edible oil for primary children and 150 gms of rice/wheat, 30 gms of pulses, 75 gms of vegetables and 7.5 gms of edible oil for upper primary children.

(c) & (d): The Government has made elaborate arrangements through MDMS guidelines to ensure that children get good quality meal to their satisfaction. The food is tasted by 2- 3 adults, including at least one teacher, before it is served to children. Representatives of Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), School Management & Development Committees (SMDCs) as well as Mothers' Committees are required to monitor (a) the regularity and wholesomeness of the mid day meal served to children, (b) cleanliness in cooking and serving of the mid day meal, (c) procurement of good quality ingredients, and (d) implementation of varied menu. Supervisory Officers are required to inspect about 25% of the schools every quarter. National/State/District/Block level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees are constituted to monitor the implementation of the scheme. The Central Government monitors the progress of the scheme through National, Regional and State level meetings, the Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) and the Review Missions. Besides, 42 reputed institutions have been engaged to monitor the implementation of the scheme independently through field inspection and submit six monthly reports for remedial action.

(e) & (f): Certain cases of deficiencies/irregularities in the implementation of the MDMS have come to the notice of the Government. The details of such cases are given in the Annexure.

(g): The overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal lies with the State Government/UT administration. However, the Central Government continuously urges the State/UT Governments to lift only good quality foodgrains from FCI godowns after joint inspection, store it in dry and safe places, ensure cooking in a hygienic environment by properly training the cooks, and ensure strict compliance of the Scheme guidelines.