

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2082
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

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

- (a) whether the Government is involving the Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) people in the mid-day meal scheme for transforming the rural landscape;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) envisages active participation of community including that of SCs and STs through Gram Panchayat/Sabha, Village Education Committee, Parent Teacher Association, School Management and Development Committee, Mother's Committee, which are expected to monitor the

- (i) regularity, wholesomeness, quality of meal,
- (ii) cleanliness in cooking/serving of mid-day meal and
- (iii) social & gender equity in serving mid-day meal. The MDMS also envisages the involvement of Self Help Groups with large membership of poor women including that of SCs and STs in the procurement, cooking and distribution process. The MDMS also impresses upon States/UTs for preference being given to cooks/helpers belonging to SCs/STs. As per information furnished by States/UTs, during 2008-09 out of about 15.68 lakh cooks engaged under the MDMS 3.31 lakh (21.10%) cooks are from Scheduled Castes and 2.52 lakh (16 %) cooks are from Scheduled Tribes.