

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2124
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is reviewing the mid-day meal scheme regularly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any monitoring system has been developed by the Government for monitoring the benefits of this scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits accrued from the implementation of the monitoring system; and
- (e) the details of the successful implementation of the scheme and the expenses incurred thereon, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Central Government is reviewing the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) regularly through Regional and National level meetings with focus on coverage, quality, safety, regularity and transparency. Critical issues are brought to the notice of States/UTs for necessary corrective actions to further improve the quality of implementation of MDMS. During 2008-09 four Regional Meetings were held on 4.7.2008, 15.10.2008, 06.11.2008, 29.11.2008 at Shillong, Bangalore, New Delhi, Ahmedabad respectively. Review of the MDMS was made in National Level meetings held on 1.8.2008 and 6.2.2008 at New Delhi. The performance of the States/UTs is also reviewed through the Half-yearly reports of the 42 Monitoring Institutions, Quarterly Progress Reports received from States/UTs. In-depth review of the implementation of MDMS is also made during Mid-Day Meal – Project Approval Board meetings held to approve Annual Work Plan & Budget of the States/UTs every year.

(c): Besides the above, monitoring at the National level, the following Monitoring Mechanism has been developed for monitoring at various levels:

(i) The local level monitoring is done on daily basis through the 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 who are required to monitor the (a) regularity and wholesomeness of the mid day meal served to children,

- (b) cleanliness in cooking and serving of the mid day meal,
- (c) timeliness in procurement of good quality ingredients, fuel, etc,
- (d) implementation of varied menu, (e) social and gender equity.

(ii) All schools and centres are required to display information on

- (a) quantity of food grains received, date of receipt
- (b) quantity of food grains utilized
- (c) other ingredients purchased, utilized
- (d) number of children given mid day meal
- (e) daily menu
- (f) roster of Community Members involved in the programme

(iii) Officers of the State Government/ UTs belonging to the Departments of Revenue, Rural Development, Education and other related sectors, such as Women and Child Development, Food, Health are required to inspect schools and centres where the programme is being implemented. It has been recommended that 25% of primary schools/ EGS & AIE centres are visited every quarter.

(iv) States/UTs have been advised to constitute District Level Committees comprising public representatives (MPs, MLAs) to monitor the implementation of MDMS in Districts. The senior-most Member of Parliament present in the meeting is to chair this meeting.

(v) States and Union Territories are required to develop a dedicated mechanism for public grievance redressal, which should be widely publicized and made easily accessible.

(vi) State Level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary to oversee the implementation of the Programme in the State/UT.

(vii) 1.8 per cent of the total cost of foodgrain, cooking cost and transportation of foodgrain, is provided to States/UTs for Monitoring Management & Evaluation of the Scheme.

(d): The benefits accrued from the implementation of MDMS, as brought out by various independent evaluation studies include inter alia enhancement in enrollment and attendance, especially of girls and SC/ST children, narrowing of social distance among children so as to foster social harmony, and improvement in scholastic achievement etc.

(e) The State-wise details of the expenditure incurred during the year 2008-09 are given in the Annexure.