

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:608

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

UNHYGIENIC FOOD UNDER MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

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

- (a) whether recently, a large number of cases were reported from across the country where children fell ill after consuming mid-day meals at schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry into these incidents;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to stop such incidents from happening in future?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): The overall responsibility to provide wholesome and nutritious food to children in schools under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Since 1.1.2010, four incidents of children falling ill, one each from Bihar, Delhi, Haryana and Karnataka, have come to the notice of the Government as per following details:-

Bihar:

300 children had allegedly fallen ill and 2 children had died after consuming mid day meal in March 2010. It has still not been established whether the two children who died was as a result of consuming mid day meal. Now good quality of rice is lifted under Mid Day Meal Scheme after verification by an officer appointed by the District Magistrate.

Delhi:

29 children were stated to have fallen ill after eating mid day meal on 6.5.2010 in Hauz Khazi. The food was distributed to the students only after satisfying that the quality of food was good. The same supplier provided mid day meal to other schools also and there was no complaint. Sample of meal was collected from the school and sent for testing.

Karnataka:

153 students of Model Higher Primary School No. 1, Kakshmeshwar, Gadag District, Karnataka State were admitted to local Government Hospital when they started vomiting after consuming Vegetable Pulav prepared at the school. As an immediate measure, place of cooking was changed to different room and directed to keep the kitchen and surroundings clean. The Head Master has been suspended and cooks have been changed. Before serving the food two teachers have been asked to taste the food and then serve to the students.

Haryana:

10 children were stated to have fallen ill after taking mid day meal on 6.3.2010 at Hodal (Faridabad). The State Government has reported that the Committee constituted to enquire into the matter has not found enough evidence for proceeding further in the matter.

(e): The Government has made elaborate arrangements through MDM Scheme guidelines to ensure that children get good quality meal to their satisfaction including tasting of food by 2-3 adults. As and when any complaint comes to the notice of the Central Government, 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.