

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1679  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010  
MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME  
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission had conducted a survey to evaluate the implementation of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme of the Government across 17 States and 48 Districts;
- (b) if so, the details and the findings thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken to make the scheme more beneficial and fruitful?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The findings of the Report include inter alia that majority of States are implementing the scheme in all institutions, meal provided is adequate, the objectives of social equity and eliminating classroom hunger are being achieved, Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee at various levels are constituted but meetings are not being held regularly, lack of toilet facilities, poor functional condition of kitchen sheds, shortage of cooks, teachers precious teaching time being spent on activities relating to Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme.

(c): It has been the continuous endeavour of the Government to improve the coverage and quality of implementation of the MDM. The scheme was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15-08-1995, in 2408 blocks in the country as a dry ration scheme for children of classes I-V in Government, Local body and Government aided schools. Today it is a hot cooked meal scheme for children studying in classes I-VIII in Government, Local body and Government aided schools, and centres run under Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative and Innovative Education(AIE) and Madarsas/Maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) all over the country.

With a view to make the Scheme more beneficial and fruitful the Government has revised the Scheme in November 2009. Food norms for upper primary children and cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) for both, the primary and upper primary children were revised. The cooking cost has further been increased by 7.5% with effect from 01-04-2010. A separate component for payment of honorarium of Rs.1000 per month to cook-cum-helper and a norm for engaging cook-cum-helper have been introduced. MDM Project Approval Board has approved sufficient number of cook-cum-helper as per the demand of the States/UTs. Instructions have been reiterated in October 2009 not to engage teachers in the implementation of the scheme except ensuring that good quality, wholesome food is served to children, the actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions and in orderly manner during the lunch break of 30-40 minutes. Transportation assistance in the 11 Special Category States (viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Tripura) has been made at par with the Public Distribution System (PDS) rates prevalent in these States. Till 30-11-2009, 746558 kitchen-cum-store were sanctioned @ Rs. 60,000/- per unit. States/UTs were finding it difficult to get the kitchen-cum-store constructed with this assistance, so from 01-12-2009 instead of a flat rate, the cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store is being determined on the basis of State Schedule of Rates and the plinth area norm laid down by the Department of School Education & Literacy. On the revised rates 103555 kitchen-cum-store have been sanctioned between 01-12-2009 to 31-03-2010. For the year 2010-11, 167582 kitchen-cum-store have been approved. Till March 2009, 87.6% and 66.47% schools have drinking water and toilet facilities respectively. Secretary, School Education and Literacy and Secretary, Drinking Water, Government of India have jointly written to all the State/UT Governments to provide adequate drinking water and toilet facilities in all the schools. The Right To Education Act(RTE), which has become effective from 01-04-2010, provides for kitchen-cum-store, drinking water and separate toilet facility for boys and girls in every school.