

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1834
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
DIVERSION OF FUNDS UNDER MDMS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether a large number of schools in the country do not serve Mid Day Meals to children because of diversion of funds by the State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has initiated action against the erring authorities on the failure of the implementation of the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No such complaint has come to the notice of the Government from any State/UT where mid day meal in large number of schools was not served because of diversion of funds. However, the CAG in its Report No. PA 13 of 2008 for the year ending March, 2007 has pointed out diversion of funds in 5 States, whose details are given as under:-

Sl.No. State Extent of diversion

1. Andhra Pradesh Cooking cost worth Rs.3.26 crore diverted towards construction of kitchen sheds.
2. Assam Cooking cost was diverted for purchase of utensils and LPG.
3. Meghalaya In one district the cooking cost of Rs. 5.06 lakh was diverted for payment of salaries to teachers of non-government primary schools.
4. West Bengal Rs. 92.69 crore worth cooking cost diverted for kitchen sheds, cooking devices and MME.
5. Madhya Pradesh Rs. 17.78 lakh diverted for printing of cards, stationery, audit fee etc.

(c), (d) & (e): Replies from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh indicate that they urgently needed to construct kitchen shed hence diversion was unavoidable. Govt. of Assam has reported that no report from any district has been received showing that cooking cost had been diverted for purchase of utensils and LPG. Govt. of Meghalaya has informed that by the mistake the fund was drawn from Mid Day Meal Scheme but the same has been recouped. West Bengal government has clarified that funds meant for several components were kept under one single head, therefore confusion arose, actually there was no diversion. Madhya Pradesh government has explained that there was no diversion of funds as the items indicated were used for implementing the MDM Scheme.

The Central Govt. consistently reiterates through the release orders to States and UTs that the funds released under MDM Scheme

should not be diverted to any purpose other than for which it was sanctioned. In case of any report of diversion coming to the notice, the matter is taken up with States/UTs for appropriate action against erring officials, recouping the funds and taking remedial steps so that such things do not recur in future. It was done in these cases also.