

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2935
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
MID DAY MEAL SCHEMES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of students not availing the mid day meals at some places because of caste factor have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other complaints received by the Government regarding Mid Day Meal Scheme; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The overall responsibility to implement all the aspects of the Mid Day Meal Scheme lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, as and when any complaint comes to the notice of the Central Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to enquire 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. The following cases of caste bias have come to the notice of the Government:-

- i) Uttar Pradesh: Two press reports about caste bias against Dalit cooks were got enquired by the Government. In one case an FIR was lodged against one person and disciplinary proceeding was initiated against the Assistant Teacher for provoking casteism. In other case the State Government reported that the matter was amicably resolved in the village & Dalit cook was reappointed.
- ii) Orissa: A Press report indicated that the Village Education Committee members ordered the Dalit cooks to stop work in a district of Orissa. The State Govt. has informed that after enquiry a case was registered against one of the guardians responsible for this in the nearby Police Station.
- iii) Gujarat: A press clipping was received regarding serving of poor quality of food to lower caste children. On enquiry by the State Govt. the press report has been found baseless.
- iv) Madhya Pradesh: A press report indicated that Dalit Students are being discriminated while serving mid-day meal. Enquiry has been got conducted by the State Government and the press report was found baseless. Besides attention of State Govt. was also drawn to a report of Monitoring Institution regarding gender/caste discrimination for appropriate remedial action.