

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4047

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

IRREGULARITIES IN MDMS

Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman;Choudhary Shri Harish;Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Ram Shri Purnmasi;Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the food served under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme is of sub-standard quality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of children had fallen ill after taking such substandard food in Delhi and other parts of the country;
- (d) if so,whether the Government has conducted inquiries into the irregularities of serving substandard foodstuff;
- (e) if so,the findings thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (f) the measures taken to ensure that the Scheme is implemented in a proper manner and carefully monitored on regular basis?

Answer

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

(a) & (e): In order to ensure that good quality food is served to the children under the Mid Day Meal Scheme, the Central Government has continuously been urging the State/UT Governments to:

- # lift only good quality foodgrains from FCI godowns after joint inspection
- # store food items in dry and safe places
- # ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- # properly train cooks to adopt hygienic practices
- # get the food tasted by 2-3 adults including one teacher
- # ensure availability of drinking water
- # involve the community in implementation and supervision of the scheme
- # get on an average 25% of the schools inspected every quarter.

However, since 1.1.2010, four incidents of children falling ill in Bihar, Delhi, Haryana and Karnataka have come to the notice of the Government. The Central Government immediately took up the matter with the concerned State Governments for appropriate action and report. The status of action taken by the State Governments is mentioned below:

Bihar: During March, 2010, 300 children fell ill and 2 children are alleged to have died after taking mid-day meal. The viscera of the child has been sent for testing to establish whether the death was as a result of consuming mid day meal.In the meanwhile, the State Government has lodged FIR against Principal in-charge of the School, the teacher concerned,and rice lifting contractor. The Principal in- charge has also been suspended and departmental action initiated against him. Action has also been initiated for cancelling the contract of concerned service provider.

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.Subsequent testing report revealed that mid day meal food was not the reason of sickness.

Karnataka: 153 students of Model Higher Primary School No. 1,Lakshmeshwar, Gagag District, Karnataka State were admitted on 12.6.2010 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 school authorities were 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 had reportedly 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.

(f): The overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for wholesome and regular cooked mid day meal

in every eligible school/institution lies with the State Government/UT administration. The Government has made elaborate arrangements through MDM Scheme guidelines for regular monitoring of the Scheme from school level to the National level to ensure that children get good quality meal to their satisfaction.