

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1751

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011

UNHYGIENIC FOOD UNDER MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B. ; Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy ; Tirkey Shri Manohar; Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that poor quality of food is being served to the children under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of children that fell ill after consuming mid-day meals during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry for these incidents;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (f) the measures taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty persons/ institutions and also to stop such incidents not to be occurred in future; and
- (g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure for serving of quality and nutritious food under the aforesaid scheme?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. In the last 3 years and the current year, 16 cases of children falling ill after consuming mid day meal have been reported from 8 States. The details can be seen at Annexure.

(d) to (f): In all these cases, the State Governments were requested to conduct inquiry and take necessary action. The reports have been received for 14/16 of these cases; the States have fixed responsibility; filed criminal complaints against persons responsible; suspended the erring officials; cancelled the contract of the suppliers and changed cooks where required. To ensure quality of mid day meal and prevention of such instances in future, the State Governments have strengthened the School Management Committees for effective implementation of the programme. In some states food testing laboratories have been engaged for ensuring quality of food. The teachers have been directed to ensure cleanliness of containers where the food is cooked or stored. In addition, officers of the State level have been deputed to frequently inspect the hygiene standards.

(g) To ensure that good quality nutritious food is served, there is an extensive monitoring mechanism at the school, block, district, State and the National levels. The scheme is constantly reviewed through Quarterly Progress Reports; in the National level steering cum Monitoring Committee meetings and during Programme Approval Board meetings. In addition the Central Review Missions visit the states for an on the spot assessment and independent monitoring institutes evaluate the Scheme at regular intervals.