

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5649  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011  
WAGES OF COOKS UNDER MID DAY MEAL SCHEME  
Saha Shri Anup Kumar

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

- (a) whether an evaluation, conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission, found that the wages paid to Mid Day Meal workers are low;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to increase the honorarium given to these workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to bring any insurance scheme to cover the Mid Day Meal workers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): The evaluation of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) by the Planning Commission for the period 2000-2006 showed that the honorarium paid to the cooks and helpers was meager and they were less in number. The Government took note of this and with effect from 01.12.2009, the scheme was revised to provide for separate honorarium to each cook-cum-helper @ Rs. 1000/- per month. The criteria for engagement of cook-cum-helpers was also prescribed under which one cook-cum-helper can be engaged for a school having up to 25 students, two cook-cum-helpers for schools with 26 to 100 students and one additional cook-cum-helper for every addition of up to 100 students.

(e): No, Sir.

(f) & (g): Does not arise.