

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2135  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011  
CENTRALISED KITCHENS  
Saha Shri Anup Kumar

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

- (a) the policy regarding centralised kitchens in Mid Day Meal Scheme;
- (b) whether the Government has got any complaint regarding quality of food provided by the centralised kitchens;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): Mid Day Meal Scheme guidelines provide that in urban areas where there is shortage of space for constructing kitchen sheds, a centralised kitchen may be set up. Cooking may, wherever appropriate, be undertaken in a centralised kitchen and hot cooked meal may then be transported under hygienic conditions through a reliable transport system to various schools. There may be one or more such nodal kitchens in an urban area, depending on the number of clusters which they serve.

(b) & (c): During the year 2011, three complaints of serving poor quality meals by centralised kitchens in Haryana (2) and Delhi (1) were received. In the first case of Haryana, a lizard was found in the food supplied by ISKON in Thanesar block of District Kurukshetra in July, 2011. 22 children were reported ill after consuming meals. They recovered fully after prompt medical treatment. In the second case, a lizard was found in the food supplied by ISKON in Sotai village of district Faridabad. The entire food was destroyed and there was no case of food poisoning. The complaint in Delhi was found to be baseless.

(d): The Government of Haryana has advised ISKON to ensure pest control in the premises where food is prepared. They are also deputing officers to inspect the site of preparation of mid day meals by ISKON. The members of School Management Committees have been asked to check the meals at the time of its receipt in the schools.

The scheme guidelines provide for a detailed monitoring mechanism at the school, block, district, State and the National levels. The scheme is constantly reviewed through Quarterly Progress Reports, at all levels, as well as through the Review Missions. In June, 2010 detailed guiding principles for setting up Grievance Redressal Mechanisms for registering complaints through toll free number/dedicated telephone number were issued. In addition 40 independent monitoring institutes evaluate the Scheme at regular intervals.

The State Government has been advised to step up efforts to get the meals cooked through women's/mothers' Self Help Groups or by personnel engaged directly by the VEC/SMDC/PTA/Gram Panchayat and Municipality, to ensure employment to local people and serving of hot cooked meal in hygienic manner and adherence to MDM guidelines.