

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1286
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
FOODGRAINS SUPPLIED UNDER MDMS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains supplied to each State under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has made any independent assessment of the working of the mid-day meals served to the primary school children in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the measures being taken by the Union Government to ensure that the quality of the mid-day meals by the suppliers is maintained in accordance with the standard/norms laid down by the ISI/Nutrition Foundation of India?

Answer

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

(a): Information is at Annexure.

(b) & (c): The Government assesses the working of the Mid Day Meal Scheme through National Level Review Meetings, Joint Review Missions consisting of representatives of the Ministry, State Government, UNICEF, Supreme Court Commissionerate for MDMS and 40 Monitoring Institutions, which are located in various Universities.

The Independent assessments have revealed that the Mid Day Meal Programme has been successful in addressing classroom hunger in sample schools. While it seems to have contributed to an increase in the attendance and retention in schools across the country, it does not seem to have any significant impact on fresh enrolments. There are delays in release of funds, which effect availability of nutritional components such as vegetables and pulses in the schools as well as timely payments to the cook cum helpers, which hinder the programme. The construction of the Kitchen cum stores needs to be expedited, hygiene improved and monitoring of the programme strengthened.

(d): The hot cooked mid day meal containing 450 calories & 12 grams protein for the primary classes and 700 calories & 20 grams protein for upper primary classes is to be provided to each child on each school day. The above nutritional and calorific value will be derived from 100 gram of rice or wheat for primary and 150 gram for upper primary and other food ingredients such as vegetables, oil & condiments etc.

For ensuring the quality of mid day meal, Fair Average Quality (FAQ) foodgrains is supplied to the State Governments / UTs through Food Corporation of India. FAQ foodgrains is lifted after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI and the nominee of the Collector and/or Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat of the State / UT. Quality, safety and hygiene specifications have been prescribed in the Guidelines. It is also provided that 2-3 adults members, of them at least one being a teacher, must taste the food before it is served to the children. The guidelines also provide for active community participation in the supervision and monitoring of the programme.

Cook-cum-helpers have been engaged for preparing and serving the quality mid day meal in the schools. They are also provided training on safety, hygiene, nutrition etc. The Central Government has also revised the norms for construction of kitchen -cum-stores, to ensure safe preparation of the meal in hygienic conditions as well as safe storage of the foodgrains.