

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:103

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012

FUNCTIONING OF MDMS

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the adverse report on the working of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such reports received during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether any central team of the Ministry visited various States in the country to supervise the functioning of the scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken against the erring school authorities and the steps taken to ensure quality meal to the students in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The State-wise details of the 86 complaints (misappropriation of funds 30, poor quality of food 25, and other irregularities 31) on the working of the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), received during the last 3 years are given in Annexure.

(c) & (d): These reports were referred to the concerned States / UTs for taking corrective measures and to submit the Action Taken Note to this Department. During 2011-12, Central teams were also deputed for review of the Scheme in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh and to provide technical guidance on the spot. In addition to this, Joint Review Missions also visited Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttarakhand to review the Scheme and suggest measures for effective implementation of the Scheme. The observations of these teams such as low coverage of students against enrolment, delay in payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers, improper storage of foodgrains, disruption of MDM in schools due to non-availability of foodgrains and funds, delay in lifting of foodgrains, non-maintenance of buffer stock etc were shared with the State Governments for necessary corrective action.

(e) The States / UTs have taken necessary action on 38 complaints that were proved. This included warning to the concerned NGO and officers responsible, initiation of departmental proceedings against Principal and Inspector, transfer of the Principal, suspension of erring officials; registration of criminal cases for negligence against the contractor, cancellation of the contract of the supplier, changing of cooks where required, recovering from Gram Pradhan and compensating children as per the directions of the court.

To ensure the quantity and quality of mid day meal supplied, the Scheme guidelines provide for lifting of good quality foodgrains from FCI godowns, storage of food items in dry and safe places, cooking food in hygienic environment through properly trained cooks. The cooked food has to be tasted by 2-3 adults including teachers. In addition, community involvement is promoted in the implementation and supervision of the Scheme. Some States like Delhi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. have also collected samples for testing of the nutritional and calorific content of the meal. In addition, an extensive mechanism has been put in place for regular inspection of the scheme at all levels.