

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:149

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012

MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias; Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ; Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje; Singh Shri Bhupendra ; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) the number and percentage of school children covered under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) at present in each State/UT;
- (b) the funds allocated/utilised under the said scheme during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed minimum calorie intake for children under the MDMS in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is regularly monitoring the quantity/calorie intake of children under the scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that all the children get the required calorie intake under the scheme;
- (f) whether there is any provision in the said scheme for collecting samples of meal from schools and sending them to laboratories to check nutrients therein; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a): The number and percentage of school children covered under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) at present in each State/UT is given at Annexure-I.
- (b): Detail of funds released and utilized State/UT-wise, under MDM Scheme, in the last three years, is given at Annexure-II.
- (c) to (e): Yes Sir. Under the scheme children are entitled to get a nutritious hot cooked meal to provide energy content of 450 and 700 calories, at primary and upper primary stages respectively.

For effective implementation of the Scheme, the Scheme Guidelines provide for an extensive monitoring mechanism at the school, block, district, State and the National levels. The Scheme is continuously monitored through Quarterly Progress Reports, in the National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee meetings and during Programme Approval Board meetings. To ensure accountability, registers for attendance, Mid Day Meal beneficiaries and MDMS stocks are required to be maintained at school level. These registers are inspected by block and district level officers. In addition the Central Review Mission visit the States for an on the spot assessment. Independent Monitoring Institutes also evaluates the Scheme at regular intervals.

- (f) & (g): 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 collected samples for testing of the nutritional and calorific content of the meal.