

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:962
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
CENTRE SHARE FOR MID-DAY MEAL
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the Centre's share for Mid-day Meal in view of the cost escalation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the involvement of teacher in order to ensure the ration supply and supervision of the cooking process;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is thinking to separate the management of the Mid-day Meal Scheme from the educational management of the school to improve the quality of education; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The Government has revised the food norm for upper primary children by increasing the quantity of pulses from 25 to 30 grams, vegetables from 65 to 75 grams and by decreasing the quantity of oil and fats from 10 to 7.5 grams. It has also revised the cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) to Rs. 2.50 for primary and Rs. 3.75 for upper primary children. A separate component for payment of honorarium of Rs. 1000 per month to cook-cum-helper and a norm for engaging cook- cum-helper have been introduced. The cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store will be determined on the basis of State Schedule of Rates and the plinth area norm laid down by the Department of School Education & Literacy. The expenditure towards the cooking cost, the cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store and the honorarium of cook-cum-helper will be shared between the Centre and the North Eastern (NE) States on 90:10 basis and with other States/UTs on 75:25 basis. Transportation assistance in the 11 Special Category States (viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Tripura) has been made at par with the Public Distribution System (PDS) rates prevalent in these States. As a result of this, the share of Central Govt. will increase by Rs. 10140.33 crore for balance period of the 11th Plan.

(c) & (d): The Mid Day Meal Scheme Guidelines stipulate that under no circumstances the teachers will be assigned responsibilities, which impede or interfere with teaching learning process in schools. Their involvement in the programme is limited to ensure that good quality, wholesome food is served to children and actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions and in an orderly manner in about 30-40 minutes.

(e) & (f): In view of (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.