

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4247

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012

MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

Abdulrahman Shri ;Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is being affected due to rise in the cost of LPG cylinders and diesel prices and if so, the details thereof including the likely cost escalation in MDMS due to rise in LPG prices;
- (b) whether some States have asked for more allocation under the scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the oil companies to supply subsidized cylinders for MDMS and if so, the response of the oil companies thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has requested the States to provide LPG connections to all the schools across the country; and
- (e) if so, the percentage of schools presently having LPG connections and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a): The additional burden on the Mid Day Meal scheme, due to the withdrawal of subsidy on LPG cylinders, for six months of the year 2012-13, is Rs.752 Crores. This Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance for permission to meet the additional burden from the funds available under the Mid Day Meal Scheme. In the meanwhile, the States/UTs have been advised to implement the Mid Day Meal Scheme in an uninterrupted manner, without affecting the nutrition of the eligible children.
- (b): States like Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra have asked for additional funds for LPG cylinders on account of the withdrawal of subsidy.
- (c): The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to supply subsidized LPG cylinders under the Mid Day Meal Scheme. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has advised that the additional burden could be compensated by the Ministry of HRD through the budgetary provision of the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- (d)&(e): All the States / UTs have been requested to promote use of gas based cooking in the schools. At present, 31% Schools, are using LPG as fuel for the cooking of the Mid Day Meals.