

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4328
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
STANDARD/HYGIENIC FOOD IN SCHOOL CANTEENS
Jindal Shri Naveen;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) the current policy/guidelines on the standard and hygiene of food served in school canteens across the country;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that there has been a gradual increase in quantity and variety of junk foods sold at school canteen that many have harmful effect on a child's health including causing diseases such as diabetes, high cholesterol, etc.;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to conduct a nation-wide survey to assess the quality and hygiene of food served in school canteens;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to discourage unhealthy and junk food eating habits amongst the school children across the country?

Answer

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

- (a): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has advised schools affiliated to it to desist from serving junk food in schools. The Board has also directed schools to ensure that school canteens provide healthy snacks which can be monitored by the Health and Wellness clubs of the schools. Doctors/Nutritional Experts/Dieticians/Counselors/ Nurses/Home Science Department are to be involved in designing the recipes for the menu (healthy, nutritious and wholesome) and monitoring quality of the food items. Junk/fast food needs to be replaced completely with healthy snacks. Carbonated and aerated beverages may be replaced by juices and dairy products.
- (b): No such development has come to the notice of the Government.
- (c): Does not arise.
- (d)&(e): Currently, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.
- (f): The CBSE and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) have issued direction to all the schools affiliated with them to ban junk food in and around schools and promote healthy food habits among students. The Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE) has also advised all its members to write to the heads of institutions under their jurisdiction to promote healthy food habits and discourage junk food in and around schools.