

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1422
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013
UNHYGIENIC FOOD UNDER MDMS
Bali Ram Dr. ;Biswal Shri Hemanand

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

- (a) whether serving of stale, unhygienic and poor quality of food have been reported under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of children fell ill or died after consuming mid day meal during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty persons/institutions in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure serving of quality and nutritious food under the said scheme?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): During the last three years and in the current year, 34 complaints of poor quality of MDM have been received in this Ministry. These complaints were referred to the concerned State Governments, who have taken necessary action in 25 out of the 34 cases. The allegations were not proved in 11 cases, while action has been taken by the State Governments in the remaining 14 cases. The action taken included a warning to the concerned NGO and officers responsible, the initiation of departmental proceedings against Principal/Headmaster and Inspector, the suspension of erring officials, the registration of criminal cases against the contractor for negligence, the cancellation of the contract of the supplier, the changing of cooks where required, and compensating children as per the directions of the court. The details are given at Annexure.

(e):The Mid Day Meal Guidelines provide for the lifting of good quality foodgrains of at least Fair to Average quality from FCI godowns, the storage of food items in dry and safe places, and cooking the meals in a hygienic environment through properly trained cook-cum-helpers. The cooked food has to be tasted by 2-3 adults including one teacher before serving it to the children. In addition, community involvement is promoted in the implementation and supervision of the Mid Day Meal Scheme.