

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3513
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
DEFINITION OF MEAL IN NFSB BILL
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the definition of `Meal` in the National Food Security Bill (NFSB);
- (b) whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development has raised objections to the definition of `meal-ready to eat and fortified food` in NFSB, contending that it can only be `hot cooked meal` for would be mothers, anganwadi children, school kids, homeless and disaster hit people;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Ministry thereto; and
- (d) the details of the nutrition standards of food finally decided to be served to the categories enumerated above, particularly the Mid-day Meal beneficiaries in schools across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): As per the definition given in the National Food Security Bill, 2011 (NFSB), introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, "meal" means hot cooked meal or ready to eat meal or take home ration, as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy), in their comments on the Draft National Food Security Bill, had stated that as per Supreme Court directions (2004), their Department provides only cooked meals under its Mid Day Meal Scheme. Accordingly, the type of meal prescribed in Schedule II of the NFSB for children in lower and upper primary classes is 'Hot Cooked Meal'

(d): Schedule II of the NFSB prescribes the nutritional standards for children and pregnant women and lactating mothers required to be met by providing 'Take Home Rations' or hot cooked meal, a copy of which is at Annexure.