

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:654

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram
;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) Whether the Government sponsored study conducted by Accountability Initiative – PAISA in some States has found that the funds and grain flow for the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme suffers from major inefficiencies resulting in poor implementation of the flagship programme;
- (b) If so, the details of the study and the reasons for the same;
- (c) Whether the Government has examined the study;
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon;
- (e) The corrective steps taken / being taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (f) Whether this Ministry has approached the Ministry of Tourism to provide training to Master Cooks who prepare the mid day meal and if so, the response of the Ministry of Tourism in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The PAISA survey was a unique attempt to track funds and foodgrains flow under the Mid Day Meal Scheme. The Survey was carried out in two districts each of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The findings of the study indicate that delays in the release of funds and foodgrains resulted in the poor quality of implementation of the Scheme. These delays are largely a consequence of administrative constraints at the district level, inadequate staff, weak monitoring systems and the lack of information channels feeding information from the schools to the district on a regular basis.

(c) to (e) The findings of the study have been examined and following key areas of the report have been shared with the States /UTs during the State Education Secretaries' meeting held on 25th June, 2013 with request to take prompt action.

- i) Streamlining the funds transfer system
- ii) Direct transfer of cooking cost and honorarium to cook-cum-helpers
- iii) Strengthening staff availability for MDM at district and block level
- iv) Streamlining foodgrains management, ensuring direct delivery of foodgrains to schools
- v) Uniform record keeping formats
- vi) Streamlining reporting procedures
- vii) Strengthening information flows to schools and improving grievance redressal system
- viii) Community mobilisation
- ix) Creation of a MDM Panchayat / school innovation fund

(f) The Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Ministry of Tourism, is conducting a training programme for cooks-cum-helpers to train them on the preparation of quality nutritious meal in a safe and hygienic environment. These trained Cooks-cum-Trainers will in turn impart training to other cook-cum- helpers.