

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:129

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

SCHOOL KITCHENS

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether several States are lagging behind in the construction of mandatory kitchen-cum-store and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefore, State- wise;
- (b) whether the Government has urged all the States to construct centrally approved new, safe and hygiene friendly kitchen-cum-stores at all schools serving mid-day- meals and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give financial assistance to the States for the purpose and if so, the details thereof, State/ UT wise
- (d) the time by which these kitchen-cum-stores are likely to be constructed; and
- (e) whether the Government has also urged the States to develop contingency plan to handle medical emergencies of the kind witnessed in the recent past and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI. M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 129 for 14.08.2013 raised by SHRI R.THAMARAISELVAN and SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR regarding School Kitchens.

(a) A total of 9.79 lakh kitchen-cum-stores have been sanctioned by MHRD till date. Out of this 6.26 (64%) lakh kitchen-cum-stores have been constructed so far. The pace of construction of kitchen-cum-stores is slow in the States of Andhra Pradesh (9%), Kerala (13%), Tamil Nadu (17%), Maharashtra (35%), Uttarakhand (36%), Manipur (38%), Jharkhand (40%), Haryana (47%) and Bihar (67%). The State-wise details are given in Annexure.

The main reasons for non-construction/slow progress of kitchen-cum-stores are as under:

- i) Delay in construction of kitchen-cum-store by the States/UTs, resulting in an escalation of costs.
- ii) Delay in release of funds by State Finance Department
- iii) Non-availability of land in the school.
- iv) Non submission of proposals for Govt. aided schools by a few States.

(b) The Central Government shared a model design, for a kitchen-cum-store with separate space for storage, semi open cooking area; a large basin for multiple hand washing facilities, and disposal of water into a kitchen garden, with States having a large number of unfinished kitchen-cum-stores, in April 2013. The states were requested to adapt the same to their local requirements.

Funds are made available to the states on the basis of plinth area norms and State Schedule of Rates prevalent in the State/UT. This Department has prescribed 20 sq.mt. plinth area for construction of Kitchen- cum-Store in schools having upto 100 children. For every addition of up to 100 children, additional 4 sq.mt. plinth area is to be added.

(d) The Programme Approval Board for Mid Day Meal Scheme reviewed the status of construction of kitchen- cum-stores, while approving the Annual Work Plan and Budget for the year 2013-14 and advised the States to complete the kitchen-cum-stores in a time bound manner. This matter was also reviewed on 25.06.2013 with all Education Secretaries. They were requested to complete kitchen-cum-stores on a priority basis. This is also reviewed by the MHRD representative, during the State Steering cum Monitoring Committee Meetings.

(e) The Government has recently reiterated the MDMS Guidelines to ensure a strict compliance with quality, safety and hygiene aspects. A few additional aspects have also been emphasised; the States have been asked to develop contingency health plans to handle medical emergencies incorporating the preventive steps required to be taken; action required to be taken in an emergency situation; and the officials and health facilities to be contacted.

