

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1502  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013  
WAGES OF WORKERS IN MDMS  
Lingam Shri P.;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether the cooks who are preparing food in schools under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) are not permanent Government employees and they are paid meagre wages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to appoint permanent staff with enhanced wages to them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The cooks-cum-helpers are part time workers and they are paid a honorarium of Rs. 1000/- per month. The cost under this component is shared between the Centre and the States/UTs in the ratio of 75:25 respectively for all the States/UTs except the North-Eastern States, where the ratio is 90:10. The criteria for the number of cooks-cum-helpers to be engaged in a school has also been prescribed by the Central Government; one for a school having upto 25 students, two for schools having 26 to 100 students, and one additional cook-cum-helper for every additional 100 students.

(c) to (d): No, Madam. There is not such proposal.