

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2192

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

TRAGEDIES IN MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

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

- (a) whether several cases of loss of life of students/students falling ill after consuming mid day meal including students falling into caldrons used for cooking such meals have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any standard operating procedures for regulating the preparation and quality of food provided in the said scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for augmenting the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : The information has been provided in the Annexure.

(c) to (e) : The Government has issued detailed Guidelines for the strengthening of the MDMS and to ensure strict compliance with quality, safety and hygiene norms under the Mid Day Meal Scheme through setting up of Management Structure at various levels viz. State, District, Block etc with clear roles and responsibilities. The States have been asked to ensure the procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and their safe storage as well as mandatory tasting of the meal by at least one teacher before it is served to the children. To strengthen monitoring, social audit of the Scheme has been introduced, and the States have been asked to convene District-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of the senior-most Member of Parliament from the district. The web enabled MIS portal for MDM has been launched and States / UTs have fed annual data for about 12.12 lakh schools. The capacity of the cook-cum-helpers, as well as the district and block resource persons, for managing the safety of food-grains and to ensure hygienic cooking, is being enhanced in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Schools of home science in selected universities as well as NGOs. The States have also been asked to ensure testing of food samples by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) / CSIR Institutes / National Accreditation Board for Laboratories approved Laboratories.

The compliance with these guidelines is assessed through the Joint Review Missions (JRM)s, which visit the States at regular intervals. In the current year 16 JRM)s have been carried out in collaboration with the leading nutrition experts. In addition, surprise visits are carried out from time to time; four such visits have been carried out in the current year in Maharashtra, J&K, Assam and Odisha.