

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:978
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013
INVOLVEMENT OF TEACHERS UNDER MDMS
Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that instead of teaching the students, the teachers spend the entire day in cooking and serving the meals to the school children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is likely to improve the educational level of the students; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) Guidelines, 2006 stipulate that under no circumstances the teachers will be assigned responsibilities, which impede or interfere with the teaching/learning process in schools. Their involvement in the programme is limited to ensuring that good quality, wholesome food is served to children and actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions and in an orderly manner. At present 25.32 lakh Cook- cum-Helpers have been engaged under the Scheme for cooking and serving the meals to the school children, to save on precious teaching learning time.

(c) & (d): The Government adopts an integrated approach in the implementation of the Scheme in keeping with principles of the National Policy on Education, to ensure education of equitable quality for all to fully harness the nation's human resource potential. The improvement in the Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education from 84.53% in 2005-06 to 99.89% in 2011-12 and the proportion of pupils reaching Grade V from 71.01% in 2005 to 73.42% in 2010-11; the reduction in the dropout rate at elementary level from 60.9% to 40.06% in the year 2010-11 and out of school children from 13.4 million in 2005 to 2.9 million in 2012-13 indicates an improvement in the access to education for eligible children.