

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
MID DAY MEAL SCHEME
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in various States of the country including Odisha in the recent past and if so, the outcome thereof;
- (b) the number of children and institutions covered under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated/utilized under the scheme during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed misuse of foodgrains and irregularities under the scheme during the said period; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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. 216 for 05.02.2014 raised by SHRI A.T.NANA PATIL regarding Mid Day Meal Scheme.

(a): Yes Madam, the Joint Review Missions (JRM)s, constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), and consisting of experts from the Departments of Home Science, Office of Supreme Court Commissioner for Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Central and State Governments and UNICEF have reviewed the implementation of MDMS, in the current financial year, in 19 States of the country. Their main recommendations cover the following:

Clear roles and responsibilities at the district and block levels; smooth flow of funds from the State to the school level; identification of children with severe malnutrition for focused attention; better convergence with the school health Programme under the NRHM; appointment of cook-cum-helpers as per norms and building their capacity on food safety, security, nutrition and preparation of food as per locally available ingredients and in accordance with the local tastes; safe storage of foodgrains and the need to follow "First in First out" (FIFO) system to ensure use of foodgrains and oils within their shelf life; ensuring availability of well designed kitchen-cum-stores and functional toilets for girls; availability of potable drinking water and multiple hand washing facilities; introduction of eco-friendly smokeless chulas; capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and members of the School Management Committees (SMCs) for community audit of MDMS as well as regular inspection by the field staff; the need for creating greater awareness about the MDMS at all levels and display of rights and entitlement of children, weekly menu, MDM logo and emergency contact numbers prominently on the school walls.

In addition, Independent Monitoring Institutes engaged by the Ministry of HRD have carried out field visits in the districts and submitted the report to States / UTs. During 2013, Naba Krushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar and Dr. P.M. Institute of Advanced Study in Education have carried out a detailed study in coastal districts of Odisha and the Central teams were also deputed to Odisha to review the implementation of the Scheme.

The findings of the JRM)s were presented to the State Governments.

(b): The State-wise number of schools and children benefitted by the MDMS during the last three years and current year is given at Annexure-I.

(c): The State-wise details of funds released and utilized under the Mid Day Meal Scheme during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-II.

(d) & (e): A total of 58 complaints have been received in this Ministry during 2010-13 and the current financial year from the various States/UTs. Amongst these 6 pertain to the misuse of food grains and 52 relate to irregularities under Mid Day Meal Scheme These complaints were referred to the concerned State Governments/UTs, which have taken necessary action in 41 out of the 58 cases. The allegations were found to be baseless in 15 cases, while action has been taken by the State Governments in the remaining 26 cases.

The action taken included the suspension of erring officials, warning to the responsible officers, the initiation of departmental proceedings against erring officials, recovery from the guilty persons and launch of criminal proceedings against the guilty. The State-wise number of cases of misuse of food grains and irregularities under the scheme during last three years, are given at Annexure-III.