

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:304
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
MID DAY MEAL SCHEME
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

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

- (a) whether hot and properly cooked food is being served to the children in the primary schools as per the directions of the Supreme Court of India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to approach the apex Court to review this decision and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the role of school inspectors, principals and panchayats in the implementation of mid day meal scheme;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to give responsibility to food Inspectors to oversee and raid school kitchens and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether a large number of schools do not have access to safe drinking water and if so, the steps 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. 304 for 12.02.2014 raised by SHRI KIRTI AZAD regarding Mid Day Meal Scheme.

(a)&(b) Yes Madam. In accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, hot cooked meals are served under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS); during the 2nd quarter of 2013-14, 10.35 crore children in 11.55 lakh elementary schools were covered under the MDMS. There is no proposal to approach the apex court to review this decision.

(c) The MDM Guidelines envisage that Teachers are not to be involved in cooking of the mid day meals in the schools. However, the MDM Guidelines envisage that Teachers should be involved in ensuring that (a) good quality, wholesome food is served to children, and (b) the actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions and in an orderly manner. Further, the food prepared, is to be tasted by 2-3 adults including at least one teacher before it is served to children.

The Guidelines further state that every State Government/UT Administration will designate one nodal officer or agency at the district and block level (e.g. the District Collector, Chief Executive Officer), who shall be assigned over-all responsibility of effective implementation of the programme at the district/ block level. In States which have devolved the function of primary education either by legislation or executive order on Panchayats, the Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayats or the Executive Officer of Block Panchayats will be the Nodal Officer with overall responsibility for effective implementation of the programme at the district, block level. In such States, the responsibility for implementing the programme within their jurisdiction shall be that of the Panchayats and the Urban Local Bodies concerned, which have been assigned the responsibility by the State.

(d) The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has instructed its field offices in the States to ensure proper surveillance for provision of safe and wholesome food under MDMS.

(e) As per the District information System for Education (DISE) 2012-13, 94.87% of the schools have drinking water facilities. This Ministry works in convergence with Department of Drinking Water and Supply to augment the provision of safe drinking water in schools.