

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3392

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Dubey Shri Nishikant; Sugumar Shri K. ; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey regarding enrolment of children at the elementary level after the introduction of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which MDMS has helped to improve the quality of education and the health of students;
- (d) the percentage of dropout rate which came down after the implementation of said scheme; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to overcome shortcomings in implementation of MDMS?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The District Information System for Education (DISE), which provides the basis for assessing the progress on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, shows that the enrolment has increased from 12.46 crore in 2005-06 to 13.47 crore in 2012-13 at the primary level and from 4.37 crore to 6.49 crore at the upper primary level in the same period.

(c): The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic surveys of learning achievement of children in classes – III, V and VIII. These surveys have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels in most States. Improvements in the quality of education and the health of students, however, do not solely depend on the MDMS. They depend on several factors including Government interventions in the field of education, health and nutrition, as well as demographic changes and the level of economic development. The MDMS is also an important contributory factor, which improves retention, which in turn is a contributory factor in enhancing learning outcomes.

(d): As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), the average annual drop out rate declined from 9.96 in 2005-06 to 5.62 in 2012-13 at the primary level.

(e) : In order to overcome the shortcomings in the implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme the Government has issued detailed guidelines for the strengthening of the Scheme and strict compliance with quality, safety and hygiene norms through the setting up of management structures at various levels viz. State, District, Block, etc. with clear roles and responsibilities. The States/UTs have been asked to ensure the procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and their safe storage as well as the mandatory tasting of meals by at least one teacher before it is served to the children. To strengthen monitoring, the social audit of the Scheme has been introduced and the States/UTs have been asked to convene District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings under the Chairpersonship of the Member of Parliament from the district. The capacity of the cooks-cum-helpers, as well as district and block resource persons for managing the safety and quality of food-grains and hygienic cooking is being enhanced in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, schools of home science in selected universities as well as NGOs. The States/UTs have also been asked to ensure the testing of food samples by 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), which visit the States/ UTs at regular intervals.

In addition to this, the State Governments also visit 25% of the schools in each quarter; Independent Monitoring Institutes engaged by the Ministry of Human Resource Development also carry out field visits in all the districts, in the States/UTs allocated to them, within a period of 2 years and submit their findings to the States / UTs for taking corrective measures. Surprise visits are also carried out from time to time; recently, four such visits have been carried out in Maharashtra, J&K, Assam and Odisha.