

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3532  
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014  
AUDIT OF MDMS  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has asked the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to conduct audit of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS);
- (b) if so, the number of districts covered under the audit;
- (c) whether the social audit conducted by an independent body has submitted its report to the Ministry and if so, the findings of the audit so conducted;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the report has revealed that students are getting inadequate quantity of rice and that too of poor quality and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to conduct such audit in the remaining districts of the State and in the whole country; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to supply quality and adequate food under MDMS scheme?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had requested the Government of Andhra Pradesh to conduct a social audit of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) on a pilot basis. The social audit was undertaken in the two districts of Khammam and Chittoor.

(c) & (d): The social audit was conducted by the Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT), an independent society set up by the Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The major findings of the social audit are as under:

- i) Complaints about quantity and quality of rice.
- ii) Issues of proper recording of stock of foodgrains and meals served.
- iii) Delay in payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and cooking cost; some of the cook-cum- helpers are not available in schools.
- iv) Many schools do not have drinking water facility and there are non-functional toilets in the schools.

(e): The report of the pilot social audit in Andhra Pradesh was shared with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh for necessary corrective action. It was also shared with 9 other States/UTs Government at a workshop held in New Delhi to facilitate similar social audits in their respective States/UTs.

(f): The Government has issued detailed guidelines for strengthening of the MDMS and strict compliance with quality, safety and hygiene norms under the MDMS through setting up of Management Structures at various levels viz. State, District, Block, Panchayat etc. with clear roles and responsibilities. The States have been asked to ensure procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and their safe storage as well as mandatory tasting of meal by at least one teacher before it being served to the children. To strengthen monitoring, social audit of the scheme has been introduced, and the States have been asked convene District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairpersonship of 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 cooks-cum-helpers, as well as district and block resource persons for managing safety 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 have also been asked to ensure 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 (JRMs), which visit the States at regular intervals. In the current year 19 JRMs 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.