

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3535
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
USE OF LPG FOR MID DAY MEAL SCHEME
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether wood is used as the main fuel for cooking at most of the centres of Mid Day Meal and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to assist the States in using LPG and other fuels for cooking at all the centres;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the oil companies to supply subsidized cylinders for the mid day meal scheme and if so, the response of the oil companies thereto; and
- (e) the likely cost escalation in mid day meal scheme due to rise in LPG prices?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Madam. Wood is used as the main fuel for cooking in 70% schools across the country.
- (b) to (e): The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) provides 75% of the cooking cost to all the State/UTs, except in the case of the NER, where the Central assistance goes up to 90%. The fuel cost is a part of the cooking cost. Consequent to the discontinuation of supply of subsidized LPG cylinders to the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MP&NG), the MHRD had approached the MP&NG for continuing the existing dispensation. The latter while rejecting the request of MHRD, had advised that additional burden be met from the budgetary provision of the MDMS.

The additional burden on the account of the withdrawal of subsidy on LPG cylinders is being reimbursed to the State/UTs; the Ministry of Finance has approved Rs. 1151 crores for the current financial year (2013-14) for the reimbursement to the States/UTs. A sum of Rs. 310 crore has already been released to the States/UTs.