

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:138

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017

Complaints Relating to Mid Day Meal Scheme

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Singh Shri Satya Pal;Venugopal Shri K. C.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review its Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) to address the increasing complaints of unhygienic and poor food quality served to the students under the scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such complaints received by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether there is a gap reported between sanctioned and utilized funds under the said scheme during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor along with the number of cases of irregularities/ corruption reported in implementation of the scheme across the country during the said period and the remedial action taken in such cases, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb malpractices in MDMS and to ensure the quality of food served ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) & (b): Under Mid Day Meal Scheme, hot cooked meals are provided to 9.78 crore children in 11.43 lakh institutions on an average basis on every working day of the school during the year 2016-17. Despite this scale of operations, only 113 complaints on substandard quality of food served to the children were reported from various States and Union Territories during the last three years and the current year. Respective State Governments/UT Administrations were requested to furnish Action Taken Report (ATR) in the matter. As per ATRs received from States/UTs, action such as issuing warning against the official responsible, terminating the contract of concerned NGOs/Organisations, initiating criminal proceedings and imposing penalties against the defaulting persons/organisations have been taken by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. The State/UT-wise details of complaints on substandard quality of food served to the children and action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year is given at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): The State/UT-wise details of funds sanctioned and utilized during the last 3 years is given at Annexure-II. The unutilized amount of funds in a particular financial year is adjusted against fresh release of grant in next financial year. The State/UT-wise details of complaints on irregularities / corruption reported in implementation of the scheme and action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year is given at Annexure-III.

(e): The Government has adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to curb malpractices and to ensure the quality of food served under the scheme. At national level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of HRD, a National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) and Programme Approval Board (PAB), both headed by Secretary (School Education & Literacy), evaluate the performance of each State and UT in implementation of the Scheme and suggest measures for its smooth and effective implementation, which is a continuous process. At the State level, a State level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary and, at District Level, a District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of the senior-most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha of the district monitors the implementation of the scheme in the concerned District. At local level Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and the School Management Committees (SMCs) are required to monitor the regularity and wholesomeness of the mid-day meal served to children, cleanliness in cooking and serving of the meal, timeliness in procurement of good quality ingredients, fuel, etc., implementation of variety in menu so as to make it attractive to children and ensuring social and gender equity on daily basis. In addition, the Centre constitutes Joint Review Missions (JRM) consisting of educational and nutritional experts, which review the scheme through field visits from time to time. The reports of JRM are shared with concerned States/UTs for taking corrective action on the findings.
