

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3040
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2018**

Substandard Quality of MDMS

‡3040. SHRI SARFARAZ ALAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of incident where cockroaches, lizards etc. like poisonous insects were found in the food served in schools under mid-day meal scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of complaints received in this regard during the last five years and the current year, year/State-wise;
- (c) the action taken against the person responsible for serving unhealthy food to children in schools along with the schools of Bihar from where such incidents have taken place; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of food to be served under the said scheme?

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

- (a) to (c) : A total number of 18 incidents were reported regarding contaminated mid-day meal under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) from 8 States and UTs during last five years including 4 cases from Bihar. The State and UT-wise details are given at Annexure. The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious mid day meal to the eligible children lies with State Governments and UTs administration. Respective State Governments and UT Administrations including State Government of Bihar were requested to furnish Action Taken Report (ATR) in the matter. As per Action Taken Reports (ATRs) received from States and UTs, action such as issuing warning against the official responsible, initiating criminal proceedings and imposing penalties against the defaulting persons/organisations, terminating the contract of concerned NGOs/Organisations etc. have been taken by the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations.

(d): The Government of India has issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school level kitchens to all the States and UTs. These guidelines inter-alia provide for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals, tasting of meals by 2-3 adult members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving to children and to put in place a system of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories. The State Governments have also been instructed to display the emergency number of medical authorities in a prominent place in the school for use in case of emergencies in the school. Further, the MDM Rules, 2015 provide for mandatory testing of food samples by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet nutritional standards and quality. The Government has also adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children under the Scheme.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3040 for 06.08.2018 raised by Shri Sarfaraz Alam regarding Substandard Quality of MDMS

State and UT-wise details of complaints regarding contaminated mid-day meal under MDMS during last five years.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Poor Quality					Total
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
1	Bihar	4					4
2	Chandigarh		1				1
3	Delhi		1		1	2	4
4	Gujarat		1				1
5	Haryana	1					1
6	Jharkhand	1					1
7	Maharashtra		1				1
8	Uttar Pradesh	2	3				5
	Total	8	7	0	1	2	18