

**Poor quality of food served under MDMS**

81. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether serving of stale, unhygienic and poor quality of food has been reported under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of children who fell ill or died after consuming mid-day-meals during the last two years and the current year, State- wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by Government; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to ensure serving of quality and nutritious food under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) During the last two years and the current year, 18 complaints of poor quality of MDM have been received in this Ministry. These complaints were referred to the concerned State Governments, who have taken necessary action on 09 complaints that were substantiated. Allegations in the complaints were not proved in 05 cases, while reports are still awaited in four cases. The action taken included warning to the concerned NGO and Officer responsible, the initiation of departmental proceedings against the Principal and the Inspector, the suspension of erring officials and recovery in two cases, the registration of criminal cases against the contractor for negligence, the cancellation of the contract of the supplier, the changing of cooks where required, and compensating children as per the directions of the court. The detailed position is given in Statement (*See* below).

(e) The Mid Day Meal Guidelines provide for lifting of good quality foodgrains of atleast Fair Average quality from FCI godowns, the storage of food items in dry and safe places, cooking the meals in a hygienic environment through properly trained cook-cum-helpers. The cooked food has to be tasted by 2-3 adults including one teacher before serving it to the children. In addition, community involvement is promoted in the implementation and supervision of the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

**Statement**

*Abstract of action taken on complaints on MDM  
received during 2011 to 2013*

Category	2011	2012	2013	Total	States	Number of children fell ill (Year)
Disciplinary action suspension, transfer	1	1		2	Assam Bihar	Nil 100 (2012)
FIR lodged with Police	1	1		2	Delhi MP	22 (2011) 60 (2012)
Punitive action against Service Providers	3	2		5	UP Haryana WB Delhi	Nil 62 (2011) 3 (2011) 50 (2012) 12 (2012)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>309</b>

**Financial implications of educational reforms**

82. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring in educational reforms in the country;
- (b) whether these reforms would involve financial burden;
- (c) if so, the quantum of financial burden these reforms may involve on Government; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Education reforms are a continuous process and the Government seeks to carry them forward through expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending. Education, being in the concurrent list, is the responsibility of both the Centre as well as the respective