

- (i) 82,000 scholarships under the 'Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College & University Students'
- (ii) 5000 under the 'Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir'
- (iii) 1,00,000 under the 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme'

(b) To promote awareness amongst students about these schemes, information about the schemes has been displayed on the website of the Ministry. Besides this, the State Education Boards and Implementing Agencies also publish advertisements in the local newspapers providing information about the schemes and inviting applications from the students. Special workshops have also been conducted to disseminate information about the schemes.

(c) In 2012-13, out of Rs. 228.12 crore allocated at Revised Estimate stage, for all the three schemes, Rs. 48.12 crore could not be utilized due to lack of proposals from the States/Implementing Agencies.

Improvement in the Mid Day Meal Scheme

†*17. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is chalking out any strict action plan to check the malfunctioning and irregularities in the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether organic phosphorus is being detected in the food provided to the children under the Scheme as has been found in the meals of children in Chhapra district of Bihar resulting in death of many children; and

(d) whether Government is undertaking supervision and testing of meals to be distributed in schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The Government has on 22nd July, 2013 reiterated that detailed Guidelines to ensure a strict compliance of quality, safety and hygiene under Mid-Day Meal Scheme and also issued additional instructions through these Guidelines to further strengthen these aspects. The salient points of the guidelines are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Setting up of Management Structure at various levels viz. State, District, Block etc with clear roles and responsibilities.
 - (ii) Mandatory tasting of meal by at least one teacher before it is served to the children.
 - (iii) Quality supply of ingredients and their safe storage in the schools.
 - (iv) Procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and supply to schools on the lines of Maharashtra.
 - (v) Awareness about Mid Day Meal Scheme.
 - (vi) Convening of District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Member of Parliament from the district.
 - (vii) Social Audit of the Scheme.
 - (viii) Testing of food samples by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)/CSIR institutes/National Accreditation Board for Laboratories approved Laboratories.
 - (ix) Strengthening of the training of cook-cum-helpers, as well as district and block resource persons for managing safety of food-grains and hygienic cooking. This is being done in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Schools of home science in selected universities as well as NGOs.
 - (x) Prompt action on findings of the reports of the Monitoring Institutes, and Joint Review Missions.
 - (xi) Preparation of a comprehensive contingency Medical Plan to deal with any untoward situation.
- (c) Apart from the report of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Department of Home, Government of Bihar indicating presence of Organic Phosphorous in the meal of the children in Chhapra district. There is no other report from any other State.
- (d) The Mid Day Meal Guidelines provide for the lifting of good quality foodgrains of at least Fair Average Quality from Food Corporation of India (FCI) go-downs, the storage of food items in dry and safe places, and cooking of 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. The states are also being encouraged to promote social audit of the scheme.

There is a detailed mechanism for supervision of the scheme through Periodical reports and monitoring at the local level through the SMCs as well as the State Government officials. In addition the Central Government ensures independent monitoring through 41 monitoring institutes such as IIT Chennai; Viswa Bharti; and XLRI. The Joint Review Missions (JRM) visit the States at regular intervals. In the current year 7 JRMs have been conducted; and 13 more are planned. In addition, surprise visits are made from time to time; three such visits have been carried out in the current year in Maharashtra; Jammu and Kashmir and Assam.

The implementation of the scheme is monitored during the PAB meetings; and by the District, State and National Level Steering-cum-monitoring Committees. The District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Member of Parliament from the district has also been activated.

The Central Government has asked National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) recognized labs to collect the samples from the field for testing on parameters such as microbiological-presence or absence of e-coli, chemical parameters such as moisture content, fats, proteins and calorific value of the meal. These reports have been useful for enhancing the effectiveness of the Scheme. The States/UTs have also been requested to consider engaging FSSAI/ CSIR institutes/NABL recognized labs for carrying out sample checking of MDM, to ensure quality meal to the children.

Survey of climate change in Uttarakhand

*18. SHRI. D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted any survey of climate change and its fallout in Uttarakhand (Kedarnath); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No Sir. However, the Government of Uttarakhand had prepared a comprehensive