

with it. She further ordered the cook to go ahead with the cooking, who complied with the orders. As per the MDM Guidelines, at least one teacher should taste the MDM before it is served to the children. In this particular case, this practice was not followed even when the children complained of odd smell and peculiar taste of the food. This, later, led to the unfortunate incident where 47 children and the MDMS cook were hospitalised and 23 of them died.

Prima facie, this is a case of grave negligence. Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports have confirmed contamination. The Medical Experts also felt that the contamination was substantial so as to cause death. A First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged against the head teacher, she has been arrested and further investigation is under way. She has also been placed under suspension. The services of the Block Resource Person for MDMS have been discontinued. The guideline to ensure quality safety and hygienic under the MDMS have been reiterated to all States/UTs.

Quality of food served in mid day meals

68. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that food served to the school children under Mid Day Meal Scheme is unhygienic and of poor quality in many schools in the country;

(b) if so, whether any investigation is make into the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what measures are proposed to be taken to see that quality food under hygienic condition is served to the children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) A total of 39 complaints of poor quality of Mid-day-meals have been received in this Ministry since last three years from various States. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below). The test reports by the Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi also show that many samples fail to meet the nutritional and calorific values prescribed under the guidelines.

These complaints were referred to the concerned State Governments, who have taken necessary action in 30 out of the 39 cases. The allegations were

baseless in 11 cases, while action has been taken by the State Governments in the remaining 19 cases. The action taken included the suspension of erring officials, a warning to the concerned NGO and officers responsible, the initiation of departmental proceedings against Principal/Headmaster and Inspector, 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 Mid-Day Meal Guidelines provide for the lifting of good quality foodgrains of at least Fair Average Quality from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns, the storage of food items in dry and safe places, and 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.

The Central Government has recently reiterated detailed guidelines to ensure the quality, safety and hygiene under Mid Day Meal Scheme. The States/UTs have been requested to take immediate action on the following points:

- (i) Setting up of an effective Management Structure for MDM at various levels.
- (ii) Mandatory tasting of the meal by at least one teacher before it is served to the children.
- (iii) Safe storage and supply of ingredients to schools.
- (iv) Capacity building of stakeholders.
- (v) Procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Agmark quality and supply to schools on the lines of Maharashtra.
- (vi) Awareness about entitlements under the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- (vii) Convening of the District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of senior most Member of Parliament from the district.
- (viii) Convening of regular review meeting at the District level under the chairpersonship of the DC/Deputy Commissioner/CEO, Zila Parishad.

- (ix) Social Audit of the Scheme on the pattern of Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) Testing of food samples by a CSIR/NABL accredited lab.
- (xi) Prompt action on the reports of the Monitoring Institutes, Joint Review Mission etc.
- (xii) Contingency Medical Plans.

Statement

*Number of complaints of poor quality of Mid-day meals
for the last three years*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Poor Quality			
		2010	2011	2012	2013
1	Assam	0	1	1	0
2	Bihar	2	1	1	1
3	Delhi	1	3	2	4
4	Haryana	1	2	1	0
5	Jharkhand	0	0	0	1
6	Karnataka	1	0	1	0
7	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	2	0
8	Maharashtra	0	0	1	0
9	Punjab	0	0	1	0
10	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	4	0
11	West Bengal	0	0	2	1
TOTAL		7	9	16	7

Hospitals run by Central universities

69. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central universities in the country which are running hospitals by themselves;