

(Rs. in lakh)

Scheme Year	MDM	
	Allocated funds/ Released funds	Unspent balance
2010-11	80506.41	13221.01
2011-12	74492.31	14931.51
2012-13	86716.53	5124.41

#### **Setting up of Higher Education Apex Coordination Committee**

392. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is proposing to set up an over-arching body namely the Higher Education Apex Coordination Committee to resolve the issue arising out of regulatory provisions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted an overarching coordinating body named Higher Education Apex Coordination Committee in October, 2013. The Committee is chaired by the Human Resource Minister with Chairman University Grants Commission (UGC); Secretary, Higher Education; Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and President, Council of Architecture (CoA), as Members.

The essential mandate of the Committee is to remove the conflicts arising out of regulatory and other provisions of the regulatory bodies and professional councils. The Committee would also work towards finding common ground and take measures to promote inter-disciplinary learning and research, especially in the new and emerging fields of knowledge.

#### **Irregularities in preparations and servings of Mid-Day-Meals**

393. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of irregularities committed during preparations and servings of mid-day-meals in various schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details of incidents reported and the children affected due to various kinds of tragedy;

(c) whether Government proposes to put a proper machinery in place to handle the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme at schools; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The information is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government has on 22nd July, 2013 reiterated the detailed guidelines to ensure a strict compliance with quality, safety and hygiene norms under the 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:—

- (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.
- (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 foodgrains 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 Health Plan to deal with any untoward situation.

The compliance with these guidelines is assessed through the Joint Review Missions (JRM), which visit the States at regular intervals. In the current year 16 JRM have been carried out in collaboration with the leading nutrition experts. In addition, surprise visits are carried out from time to time; four such visits have been carried out in the current year in Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Odisha.

**Statement***State-wise details of the incidents occurred during last two years*

Sl. No.	State	Details of the School	Details of the Incident	No. of deaths	No. of children hospitalized
1.	West Bengal News report of 04.07.2012	Harobhanga Vidyasagar Vidyamandir, Jharkhali, South 24 Parganas	Class VIII student killed for protesting against poor quality mid-day-meal in West Bengal	1	Nil
2.	NCT of Delhi News report of 07.09.2012	Government Co-Ed Sr. Sec. School, Nehru Nagar, Delhi	Students fall ill after taking Mid-Day-Meal	Nil	12
3.	Uttar Pradesh Press report of 23.11.2012	Nagla Bari, Primary School, District – Firozabad,	5 Children fall ill after taking Mid-Day-Meal	Nil	5
4.	Bihar Hindustan Times, of 15.12.2012	Middle School, Tilkai, Jehanabad	"100 students fall ill after meal"	Nil	52
5.	Bihar 16.07.2013	Nav Srijit Government Primary School Gandaman, Masrakh, District Saran	23 Students died after taking Mid-Day-Meal	23	46 children + one cook
6.	Bihar 17.07.2013	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Nurchak Navtoli, Prakhanda-Bisfi, Madhubani	Tail of lizard found in the Mid-Day-Meal	Nil	7

7.	Tamil Nadu 19.07.2013	NLC Girls Higher Secondary School, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu	Students fall ill after consuming MDM	Nil	12
8.	Rajasthan 04.07.2013	Centralized kitchen of Nandi Foundation at Kishangadh, Rajasthan	Snake in centralized kitchen of Nandi Foundation	Nil	Nil
9.	Bihar 31.07.2013	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Jhajha (Jamui)	Children fall ill after eating Mid- Day-Meal	Nil	68
10.	Bihar 31.07.2013	Primary School, Chamandi, Arwal	Food poisoning	Nil	22
11.	Odisha 19.07.2013	Tailasahi Primary School Sadar Block Dhenkanal	During the time of serving of MDM a scorpion was detected by a student in his curry	Nil	3
12.	Rajasthan 31.07.2013	Rajkiya Uchch Vidyalaya, Mali Mohalla Baneda, Bhilwada	Students detect some parts of lizard in their food and they informed their teacher but MDM in charge ignored their complaint.	Nil	78
13.	Odisha 25.08.2013	Government High School, Girish Chandrapur in Nakatideula Block of Sambalpur of District Odisha	Mid-Day-Meal: Girl falls into vessel, dies in Odisha	1	—
14.	Karnataka	Chikkaballapur District of Karnataka	Press clipping appeared in the Times New Network under the caption “Girls falls into sambar pot in Bangalore school, dies-Karnataka”	1	—

*Written Answers to*

[9 DEC., 2013]

*Unstarred Questions 207*