

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) The MDM Guidelines envisage that the role of the teacher is to supervise the preparation of the mid-day meal by the cook-cum-helpers and its serving to the children in an orderly manner and taste the meal before it is served to be children. As per the MDM Guidelines, there is no role for students in serving or cooking of Mid Day Meals. The Mid Day Meal Scheme benefit 10.80 crore children in 11.58 lakh schools during 2013-14. Many studies have reported that Mid Day Meal Scheme has positive impact in improvement of the educational indicators. Besides, 38 Monitoring Institutes and several Joint Review Missions consisting of experts and Government representatives conduct studies in the States on a regular basis and their findings are shared with the concerned State Government for improvements in the Scheme.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Gujarat

2379. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for failure on the part of Gujarat Government in implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as reported by C.A.G. in Report No. 5 of the year 2014;

(b) whether Government is aware that as reported by Audit, (i) schools had no all-weather buildings, (ii) schools were without adequate class rooms and (iii) schools were without separate toilets for boys and girls etc.; and

(c) what actions are taken by the Minister in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) As reported by Government of Gujarat, there is no failure on the part of State Government in implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). All the schools in the State have all weather buildings except those in the reserved forest area, where prior permission of the forest department is required for construction of the building.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has sanctioned 3300 Additional Classrooms, 983 boys toilets and 1967 girls toilets during 2014-15, out of which 153 works have been completed so far.

Poor quality of food in MDMS

2380. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a large number of complaints concerning

serving of poor quality food to children in the schools under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS);

(b) whether media has also reported serving of poor quality food to the children in the schools and food being cooked in unhygienic conditions;

(c) whether any norms and standards have been prescribed regarding serving of food under the scheme; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure that good quality food is served to the children in the schools, as per the prescribed standards and norms under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The Government has received 31 complaints of poor quality during the calendar year 2014.

(b) The media has reported 79 cases of poor quality during the calendar year 2014.

(c) Yes, Sir, The food, norms for primary as well as upper primary children defined under Mid Day Meal Scheme are as under :

Sl. No.	Items	Quantity Per Day	
		Primary	Upper Primary
1.	Food grains (<i>viz.</i> rice, wheat)	100 gms	150 gms
2.	Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
3.	Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
4.	Oil and fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
5.	Salt and Condiments	As per need	As per need

(d) The following steps have been taken for effective implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS):

- (i) The Central Government has issued detailed guidelines to ensure quality, safety and hygiene under Mid Day Meal Scheme to all the States/UTs. These *inter-alia* include mandatory tasting of the meal by 2-3 adults including one teacher before it is served to children; Safe storage and supply of ingredients to schools; Procurement of pulses and ingredients of branded and Ag-mark quality and supply to schools and testing of food samples by accredited laboratories.
- (ii) Revision of cooking cost by 7.5%.
- (iii) Construction of kitchen-cum-stores in the schools to ensure safe storage of ingredients and preparation of meals in a hygienic environment.

- (iv) Provision of Central assistance @ ₹5000/- per school for procurement and replacement of kitchen devices.
- (v) Social Auditing of the Scheme has been started.
- (vi) 38 Monitoring Institutes and Joint Review Mission also monitor and suggest measures for improvement in the Scheme.
- (vii) Web enabled Management Information System for Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM-MIS) at national level for effective monitoring of the Scheme.

Admission of children belonging to weaker sections

2381. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 provides that, at least 25 per cent of the seats in class I shall be reserved in private unaided schools for admission to children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups, as notified;
- (b) whether, so far only 13 States have admitted such children; and
- (c) if so, the action taken to ensure compliance of this mandatory requirement of Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 by all the States/UTs to impart quality education to the most vulnerable children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Section 12 (1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act mandates that all private un-aided schools shall admit children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood in class I (or pre-school, as the case may be), to the extent of at least 25 percent of the strength of that class and provide free and compulsory elementary education to them till its completion.

(b) 28 States have issued notification or made provision in State RTE rules, while 18 States/UTs have started admissions under section 12(1)(c).

(c) The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework has been amended with effect from 1st April, 2014 to assist States/UTs towards reimbursement of costs incurred with respect to admission under Section 12(1) (c). The reimbursement would be based on per child cost norms notified by the State/UT concerned for classes I to VIII, subject to a maximum ceiling of 20 percent of the size of the total Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) approved for the State/UT under SSA. The reimbursement will be available to the States from 1st April, 2015 for children admitted in schools in 2014-15.