

Contaminated and inferior quality food under MDMS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that contaminated and inferior quality of food is being provided under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), compromising the health and hygiene of children;

(b) whether a large number of children had died and fallen ill after taking such food in various parts of the country;

(c) whether Government has conducted inquiries into the death of children and if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure that MDMS is implemented in a proper manner and carefully monitored on regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI) : (a) to (c) As per the laid down Guidelines, 450 calories and 12 grms of protein for primary and 700 calories and 20 grms of protein for upper primary children are to be provided on each school day to the children of classes I-VIII in Government and Government Aided Schools. The responsibility for day to day implementation of the scheme lies with the State Governments. The Central Government has issued detailed guidelines for providing wholesome nutritious meals.

23 children died in Bihar in 2013 after consuming mid day meals. Details of various types of action taken on complaints about MDMS during the last 4 years are given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) The Central Government has taken following steps to ensure that MDMS is implemented in a proper manner and carefully monitored on regular basis:

- (i) Training to cook-cum-helpers on safety, quality and hygiene aspects.
- (ii) States instructed to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals.
- (iii) Tasting of meals by 2-3 adults including at least one teacher before serving to children.
- (iv) System of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories.
- (v) Construction of kitchen-cum-stores for safe storage and preparation of meals in a hygienic environment.

- (vi) Engagement of cook-cum-helpers with an honorarium of ₹ 1000 per month to each cook-cum-helper.
- (vii) Upward revision of cooking cost by 7.5% every year from 2010.
- (viii) MIS based monitoring of the scheme.
- (ix) States have been requested to prepare emergency medical plan.

Guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments on Food Safety and Hygiene for school based kitchens on 13th February, 2015.

Statement

*Abstract of various types of action taken on complaints
regarding substandard food*

| Sl. No. | Type of action | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | Total |
|---------|---|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. | Reply awaited | 2 | 2 | 25 | 6 | 35 |
| 2. | Under enquiry/investigation at State level | 1 | 5 | 1 | - | 7 |
| 3. | Departmental action (including warning, transfer, suspension) and action against service providers/ complaint substantiated, by State Govt. | 5 | 2 | 5 | - | 12 |
| 4. | General corrective action, including issue of instructions to concerned, by State Govt. /GOI. | 4 | 7 | 4 | - | 15 |
| 5. | Baseless, not proved, not related to MDM | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 11 |
| TOTAL | | 14 | 18 | 41 | 7 | 70 |

Status of IITs and IIMs

324. SHRI ANAND SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of establishing IIMs and IITs as proposed in the budget of 2014-15;
- (b) the amount allocated for the new institutions and the details of expenditure thereon; and