

Quality check guidelines for MDMS

1465. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place quality check guidelines for Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in schools in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of mechanism evolved by Government to ensure proper implementation of the guidelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not having such guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) The Government of India has issued updated guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene on school level kitchens to all the States/UTs on 13th February, 2015. The Central Government has also taken following steps to ensure quality food under Mid Day Meal Scheme:

- (i) Training for cook-cum-helpers on safety, quality and hygiene aspects.
- (ii) Instruction to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals.
- (iii) Tasting of meals by 2-3 adults members 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.
- (vii) Periodic upward revision of cooking cost.

(b) and (c) An elaborate monitoring mechanism exists at both State and the Central levels for smooth implementation of the scheme. At national level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of HRD, a National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) and Programme Approval Board (PAB) monitor the scheme and suggest policy measures for effective implementation of the scheme. At the State level, State level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary and at the District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of Senior most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha monitor the scheme. Joint Review Mission (JRM) headed by experts also reviews the scheme. In addition, 38 independents Monitoring

Institutes (MIs) have been engaged for monitoring and evaluation of the scheme on half-yearly basis. Besides the above, the Guidelines also envisage monitoring of 25% of the schools on quarterly basis by the officials of the States/UTs. There is also a Management Information System (MIS) for monitoring of the scheme.

Resignations of eminent personalities

†1466. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the resignations of four eminent personalities like Anil Kakodkar during the last eight months have raised questions and whether these persons have red under pressure of the Ministry and if not, the reasons for their resignations;

(b) whether a pressure was exerted on these persons to submit resignations, so as to appoint preferred persons;

(c) the reasons why a probe was not conducted if the activities were suspicious and if an inquiry was conducted, the details thereof; and

(d) whether credibility and autonomy of the institution is not impacted due to the resignations of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairperson, BoG, IIT Bombay requested to be relieved from his responsibilities as Chairperson, BoG, IIT Bombay but agreed to continue till end of his tenure, *i.e.* 11.05.2015. Prof. R.K. Shevgaonkar, Director, IIT Delhi submitted his resignation due to personal reasons. The Board of Governors of IIT-Delhi desired that in the larger interests of the Institute, Prof. Shevgaonkar should continue as Director, IIT-Delhi. Thereafter, the Board endorsed the resignation which was accepted *w.e.f.* 11.06.2015. Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad submitted resignation on personal grounds and demitted office on 28.01.2015. Vice Chancellor, Assam University submitted that he is unable to continue in the office because of some personal and family considerations and requested to release him from the responsibilities and to treat request as letter of resignation. Former Director, NCERT, had sought pre-mature repatriation from the post of Director, NCERT on personal grounds. She was repatriated to her parent office and relieved from NCERT on 20.10.2014.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.