

the recommendation made by the Site Selection Committee being set up for the purpose of assessing the suitability of these sites identified by the State Government of Karnataka.

**Hiring of Ed.CIL for MDMS**

1501. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:  
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has hired Ed.CIL, a public sector company, without inviting bids in accordance with CVC guidelines and general financial rules for the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would initiate inquiry into the alleged irregularities and would fix responsibility in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other measures Government would take to streamline MDMS?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed.CIL) is a Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It has established credentials in Education Sector for providing quality services. It is categorised as a 'Mini Ratna Organisation' by the Government of India.

The Technical Support Group (TSG) of Ed.CIL for Mid Day Meal Scheme consists of Consultants (subject experts) and support staff and also provides support services to the Ministry towards implementation of the Scheme. For this purpose, Ed.CIL is reimbursed on cost plus basis salaries of the consultants and staff engaged for the TSG, administrative and procurement expenses, rent for space and maintenance charges. The activities were entrusted to Ed.CIL on nomination basis which is the Government of India undertaking under MHRD.

Ed.CIL as Public Sector Enterprise of the Government of India is duty bound to follow the Government guidelines in respect of financial norms.

(d) 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, independent Monitoring Institutes (MIs) have been engaged for monitoring and evaluation of the scheme on half-yearly basis. 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.

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) Instructions 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.

#### **Prescribed quantity of ingredients under MDMS**

1502. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any quantity has been prescribed for various ingredients including pulses, edible oil and vegetables under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the cost of foodgrains and other ingredients including cooking cost decided by Government at national/State level under MDMS; and