

Poisonous food under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

†516. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the details of the various types of complaints regarding Mid-Day Meal and deaths of children caused by eating poisonous food during the last five years;

(b) the number of persons against whom action has been taken for resorting to carelessness and corruption in this scheme, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to streamline this scheme in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) As per the records available in this Ministry, 280 cases of various types of complaints have been reported during 2013 to 2016. The details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). 23 children had died in a tragic incident that occurred in Navsrijit Government Primary School, Gandaman, Block Masrakh, District Saran, Bihar on 16th July, 2013.

(b) The details of State-wise action taken on complaints are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) 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. These guidelines cover safety aspect of procurement, storage, preparation, serving, waste disposal of food items as well as issues of personal hygiene of students and those involved in cooking and serving of the food. In addition, the Mid Day Meal Rules 2015, notified on 30th September, 2015 envisage that the School Management Committees (SMC) shall also monitor the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme. The Rules also provide for mandatory testing of food samples on a monthly basis by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet with nutritional standards and quality. Further, instructions have been issued to the States/UTs that at least one parent and preferably two should be present during serving of the meals to students so that they can taste the food as well as certify the number of children who partake of MDM. Besides the above, the MDM Guidelines also envisage monitoring of 25% of the schools on quarterly basis by the officials of the States/UTs. Management Information System (MIS) for Mid Day Meal Scheme is in existence since June, 2012 and all the States/UTs are making annual and monthly data entry

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

into the portal on key indicators of the Scheme for online monitoring. Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have started real time monitoring of the Scheme by Interactive Voice Response System integrated with Management Information System. In addition, the MIS for Mid Day Meal Scheme also has scope to integrate it with Interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRS) as well as other digital systems of data collection for near real time monitoring of the Scheme. Besides, the States/UTs have established Grievance Redressal Mechanism at various levels in their States with a toll free number for addressing the grievances of stakeholders.

Statement-I

State-wise and year-wise number of complaints under Mid Day Meal Scheme

Sl. No.	State/UT	Misappropriation				Poor Quality				Irregularities				Castism				Total
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	
1.	Andhra Pradesh		1				2		1			2						6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			1														1
3.	A&N Islands						1											1
4.	Assam		1					1		1	3	3	3					12
5.	Bihar	3	10	4	3	5	9	7	1	2	1	2	2					49
6.	Chandigarh							1										1
7.	Chhattisgarh					1	3	1					3					8
8.	Delhi		2	1		1	2	6				1						13
9.	Gujarat						1	1						1				3
10.	Goa							1		1								2
11.	Haryana	2	3	2		1	1			1	2							12
12.	Himachal Pradesh							1										1
13.	Jharkhand	2	2			1	3	2				5	1					16
14.	Karnataka					1	3					1		1	1			7
15.	Kerala										1							1
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	1			3	3		1		1		1			1	14

17.	Maharashtra			1	1		2	5	2	3								14
18.	Odisha	1			1	3	4	3	1									13
19.	Punjab	1		2							1							4
20.	Rajasthan		1	1	1	2						1				1		7
21.	Tamil Nadu					1												1
22.	Telangana	-	-	-		-	1									1		2
23.	Tripura							1										1
24.	Uttarakhand	2	1	1							1							5
25.	Uttar Pradesh	3	10	11	5	1	6	14	1	5	4	3	8					71
26.	West Bengal	1	2	3	2	1		1	1	2		1	1					15
TOTAL		17	34	28	13	18	41	48	7	16	13	20	18	2	1	3	1	280

Statement-II

State-wise action taken on complaints

Sl. No.	Type of action	2013				2014				2015				2016				Total	
		PQ	Misap	Irre	Caste	PQ	Misap	Irre	Caste	PQ	Misap	Irre	Caste	PQ	Misap	Irre	Caste		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1.	Departmental action (including warning, transfer, suspension) and action against service providers/	6	5	2	-	10	-	1	-	15	2	-	-	1					42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	complaint substantiated, by State Government																		
2.	Under enquiry/investigation at State level	3	0	-	-	4	3	-	-	2	-	-	-						12
3.	General corrective action, including issue of instructions to concerned, by State Government/GOI	5	-	5	-	5	1	3	-	4	1	-	-						24
4.	Baseless, not proved, not related to MDM	2	6	3	2	7	4	-	1	5	2	-	1						33
5.	Reply awaited	2	6	6	-	15	26	9	-	22	23	20	2	6	13	18	1	169	
	TOTAL	18	17	16	2	41	34	13	1	48	28	20	3	7	13	18	1	280	

164 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions