

Extension of Mid-Day Meal scheme to students of secondary schools

2612. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the high levels of malnutrition and anemia among adolescent students; and

(b) if so, whether Government intends to extend the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) programme to cover students of secondary schools also, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRAKUSHWAHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Malnutrition and anaemia levels are high amongst adolescent girls in India. Under the Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDMS), hot cooked meal is provided to children studying in classes I-VIII in eligible schools in the States/UTs with the following norms:-

Sl. No.	Items	Quantity per day / child	
		Primary	Upper Primary
1.	Foodgrain (Rice / Wheat)	100 gm	150 gm
2.	Pulses	20 gm	30 gm
3.	Vegetables (leafy also)	50 gm	75 gm
4.	Oil & Fat	5 gm	7.5 gm
5.	Salt & Condiments	As per need	As per need

The food norms provide 450 calories and 700 calories as well as 12 grams and 20 grams of protein for primary and upper primary classes respectively, which have been prescribed with the objective of making meals nutrient and protein-rich, thereby helping in prevention of malnutrition and anemia in school children upto the age of 14, under MDMS.

(b) No, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Mid-day Meal Scheme, mid-day meal is being served to children studying upto VIIIth class only. However, State Governments can extend the Mid day Meal programme beyond VIII class also. Accordingly, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana are providing mid-day meal to children of Classes IX -X and the UT Administrations of Puducherry and Lakshadweep are providing mid-day meal to children of classess upto XII, from their own resources.