

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2615
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021**

Adulteration in Mid-Day Meals

2615. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a mechanism has been developed under the new National Education Policy for monitoring adulteration in the meals prepared for the Mid-Day Meals which also includes breakfast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

- (a) to (c): The Government has adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children under Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Under the scheme the following nutritional content is prescribed for improving the quality of mid-day meal :

Items	For children of Primary classes	For children of Upper Primary classes
A) Nutritional Norms (Per child per day)		
Calorie	450	700
Protein	12 gms	20 gms
B) Food Norms (Per child per day)		
Food-grains	100 gms	150 gms
Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need

The Government of India has also issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school level kitchens to all the States and UTs to address the quality issue. These guidelines inter-alia provide for instructions to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid-day meals, tasting of meals by 2-3 adult members of School Management Committee including at least one teacher before serving to children and to put in place a system of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories. Further, the MDM Rules, 2015 provide for mandatory testing of food samples by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet nutritional standards and quality.
