

श्री. मुरली मनोहर जोशी : श्रीमन्, एक बात ध्यान देने की है कि यह केवल सरकारी निवेश है। इसके अलावा निजी निवेश भी शिक्षा में बहुत है और वह निवेश मिलाकर आप 7 प्रतिशत तक पहुंचते हैं। श्रीमन्, मैं यहां उस बात को नहीं उठाना चाहता, लेकिन मेरी यह निश्चित धारणा है कि सरकारी निवेश 6 प्रतिशत होना चाहिए। जो वर्ष 1995 का कमिटमेंट है, उस में सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी का अंतर नहीं किया गया है। आज हम चाहते हैं कि पब्लिक इनवेस्टमेंट 6 प्रतिशत हो, अगर और ज्यादा हो तो अच्छा है क्योंकि दुनिया के तमाम विकसित देशों में से कुछ में यह प्रतिशत 9 से 11 प्रतिशत तक गया हुआ है। अभी तो हम सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी मिलाकर, यह 6 या 6.5 या 7 के नजदीक पहुंच पाए हैं। इसको तीन, चार प्रतिशत और बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है, मैं इस बात से बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ और इसके लिए हम प्रयत्नशील हैं।

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : सर, इनके जवाब में इनअक्योरेसी है। वह तो पहले ही तय हुआ था टर्म्स एंड ओब्जेक्टिव्स के समय कि पब्लिक इनवेस्टमेंट 6 परसेंट जी.डी.पी. का होगा। यही तय हुआ था, पब्लिक-प्राइवेट मिलाकर नहीं।

श्री सभापति : वह तो मंत्री महोदय ने बता दिया। नैक्स्ट क्वेश्चन।

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

*66. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:†

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

(a) whether Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been expanded further throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether many opposition parties have also urged Centre to expand Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(c) whether mid-day meal supplied in Delhi and other places have been found affecting children instead of helping them;

(d) if so, whether Centre has been informed that in number of States, after mid-day meal were supplied, number of children has been forced to go to hospitals;

(e) the total number of students who were affected due to this; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take to prevent such incidents in future?

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri T. Subbarami Reddy.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE), popularly called the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, covers all children of primary classes studying in Government, Government-aided and Local Body Schools throughout the country. Last year, the scheme was expanded to cover Education Guarantee and Alternate or innovative Education Centres under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan also. Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu have suggested expansion of the scheme so as to cover children upto class VIII and X respectively.

(c) to (e) There have been newspaper reports to the effect that children in some schools of Delhi took ill on certain days after consuming the mid-day meal. Delhi Administration has been requested to report full facts, and take corrective action. Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that 1378 children took ill in the State during January to November, 2003, after consuming mid-day meal. Government of Karnataka has reported that there were no such incidents in the State. Information from other States is being collected.

(f) State Governments have been advised to take the following steps in this regard :

- (i) ensure that food under the Mid-day Meal Programme is cooked, served and consumed in a hygienic manner,
- (ii) involve Women's Self Help Groups in cooking mid-day meals, as far as possible, and
- (iii) adopt/adapt practices followed in mid-day meal programme which are running well through NGOs (like ISKCON and Nandi Foundation).

Efforts are also being made to provide financial support to States for meeting a part of the cooking cost from funds available under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) of the Planning Commission.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very good scheme. It was established in 1995, costing Rs. 1477 crore, every year covering 3.25 crore children, 2.3 lakh primary schools, and 378 districts.

This Scheme was introduced to help the children in this country, but it is sad and shocking to see that in a number of States, in a number of cities, the children go to hospitals with food poisoning. Food poisoning is taking place, and the hon. Minister is giving a reply that they have given some advices to some State Governments to follow. I would like to know from the hon. Minister apart from advices, what action the Ministry has taken. What is the cause of this food poisoning? How is the food getting poisoned? And, why are the children becoming sick?

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: श्रीमान्, इसमें जो हमारे पास रिपोर्ट हैं, उसमें दिल्ली में जो मध्याह्न भोजन में गड़बड़ियां पाई गईं, उसका विवरण हमारे पास है। वजीराबाद में 29 अगस्त को एक घटना हुई, जिसमें 30 बच्चे प्रभावित हुए और वे बाबू जगजीवन राम अस्पताल में ले जाए गए। यहां पर एनजीओ खाना पका रहे थे। इसी तरह से पीतमपुरा में एक प्राइवेट कैटर को खाना बनाने की अनुमति दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा दी गई थी, वहां कोई बच्चा प्रभावित नहीं हुआ, लेकिन जब भोजन पकाया जा रहा था तो उसमें एक मरी हुई चुहिया निकली। श्रीनिवासपुरी में एक एनजीओ के द्वारा खाना पकाया जा रहा था, जहां से 122 बच्चे एम्स और सफदरजंग अस्पताल में ले जाए गए। इन सब मामलों में पुलिस में रिपोर्ट दर्ज है और भोजन पकाने वाले एनजीओस और कैटर की नियुक्ति सरकार की तरफ से रद्द कर दी गई है। पुलिस के हाथ में मामला सौंप दिया गया है और जो भी प्रोसीक्यूशन के नतीजे होंगे वे आपके सामने आएंगे। हम इस बात से निश्चित रूप से चिंतित हैं कि जब भोजन देने की व्यवस्था हमारे आधार पर और माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश पर दी गई है तब कुछ राज्यों के द्वारा इस ओर पूरा ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। चौदह राज्य और कुछ हमारी यूनियन टेरिटरीज इसके तहत पका-पकाया भोजन दे रही हैं, लेकिन पांच-छह राज्य राशन ही दे रहे हैं, पांच-छह राज्यों में अभी इसकी व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है। पका-पकाया भोजन बच्चों को मिले, इस पर हमारा ध्यान है और पूरी कोशिश है कि सारे राज्यों में यह व्यवस्था चले। भोजन को पकाने के ऊपर पूरा ध्यान दिया जाए, इसके लिए कुछ मोडल हमने बनाए हैं, जैसा कि हमने इसमें लिखा है इस्कान टैम्पल जैसा भोजन वितरित करते हैं, उस हाइजेनिक ढंग से ही वैसा मोडल अपनाएं। अगर ज्यादातर राज्य इसे अपनाएं, इससे मिलता-जुलता, तो यह दुर्व्यवस्था, अनहाइजैनिक की समाप्त हो जाएगी।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: My second supplementary is this. Is it possible to extend this Scheme upto SLCC level, that is, up to 11th Standard instead of the 7th Standard?

Secondly, is it a fact that your Ministry owes Rs. 500 crores to the Food Corporation of India and that it has refused to supply foodgrains for this Mid Day Meal Scheme? I want to know about this.

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सर, इसमें ऐसा है कि अभी इस स्कीम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए तो हमारा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है। कुछ राज्यों की तरफ से कुछ सुझाव आए हैं और कुछ राज्य दे रहे हैं, जैसे तमिलनाडु की सरकार है वह इसको अगली कक्षा तक दे रहे हैं। कुछ राज्य हैं, जो इसको आगे बढ़ाकर आठवीं कक्षा तक देने के पक्ष में हैं। हम इस बारे में प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं, प्लानिंग कमिशन से भी बात कर रहे हैं कि इसको अपर-प्राइमरी में भी शामिल किया जाए और सब बच्चों को दिया जाए। लेकिन, जहां तक आपका यह सवाल है फूड कांफ़रेंशन का, तो फूड कांफ़रेंशन से हमारे बीच पैसों का आदान-प्रदान होता रहता है। वह जो अपना बिल बनाते हैं, कभी कुछ ज्यादा बनाते हैं, कभी कुछ कम बनाते हैं, यह झगड़े तो चलते रहते हैं, परन्तु उसकी वजह से कभी अनाज के आने में और जाने में कोई कठिनाई नहीं हुई है।

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Sir, just now the Minister has mentioned that ISKON and NANDI Foundations are running these kitchens. Sir, I have seen that the NANDI Foundation kitchen costs something like Rs. 200/- crores. The State Governments are not able to implement the hot Mid-Day Meal Scheme because they do not have money. Sir, they have asked the Central Government to, at least, pay a part of that money and the Minister is again saying here that you imitate ISKON and NANDI Foundations. ISKON and NANDI Foundations have money to set up kitchens.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the NGOs are willing to set up kitchens like ISKON and NANDI, will the hon. Minister be willing to meet the cost of those kitchens?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We do not meet the cost of kitchens in these schools; we only supply them foodgrains..(Interruptions)..

MISS MABEL REBELLO: But, how...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: आप सुनिए। सुनिए, सुनिए।

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please listen to me.

श्री सभापति: कुमारी रिबेल्लो, आप सुनिए। सुनिए, सुनिए।

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is the community participation in these kitchens and in my opinion one of the best solutions to get these schemes implemented will be to involve community in distributing and cooking food to their children. No State Government agency or no Central

Government agency can cook food for 6 or 7 lakhs of schools. I tell you, no Government can do it. If you become the Minister, I would say, "Please do it". We have initiated this action in a large number of NGOs, who are well-meaning NGOs, who can collect funds from the people, and who have the confidence of the people. We have appealed to all churches, to all Gurudwaras, to all wakf boards and to all temples to come forward and use this public money for this good cause because we want to feed our children right now. If we wait for the Government, the children will remain hungry.

MISS MABEL REBELLO: But, Sir...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I won't allow you...(Interruptions)...Shri P.G. Narayanan.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, we have been implementing the mid-day meal scheme for the past 25 years. In fact, we have extended this scheme to high schools also. This Scheme is yielding good results in Tamil Nadu but a lot of money, more than about Rs. 500 crores a year, is being spent by us. But the Central Government is not coming to the rescue of the Tamil Nadu Government by way of providing financial assistance to the Tamil Nadu Government. I want to know whether the Government can bear the entire cost and provide financial help to Tamil Nadu.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Well, we have all praise for the Tamil Nadu Government as it was the first State to initiate this scheme right up to the higher level and are providing good cooked food. The reports are very fine, but I am sorry that we cannot fund the whole bill up to 10th class. Whatever is our share, we are giving it. We have now obtained permission from Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana and other Yojanas to divert some funds for this Scheme and I am sure that when the circular relating to those two things are sent, you will be able to get some more money for meeting this part. But the whole case is this. The resources of this country and the resources of the States — in all other States — do not match up to the needs. But, we have been all praise for the Tamil Nadu Government for implementing this wonderful scheme which they have implemented so successfully. In Gujarat, now in Tamil Nadu, partly in Andhra and in Kerala, and in some 14 other States they have taken up this Scheme as a very serious scheme. And, we are now negotiating with all the other States about all these things.