

[2 May, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

महोदय, प्रेस भी रिपोर्ट करती है और उसमें छपने के कारण भी आप के सामने बाधाएं आती हैं। नकली किताबों के बार में काफी छपा है और यह करोड़ों बच्चों के भविष्य का प्रश्न है।

डा. वल्लभभाई रामजीभाई कथीरिया: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो चिन्ता व्यक्त की है, उस पर हम ध्यान रखेंगे कि जितनी भी किताबें छपी हैं, वे पूरी मात्रा में एवैलेबल कराएंगे और महोदय, हमारे पास नकली पुस्तकें छपने के बारे में कोई कम्प्लेंट नहीं आई है।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, रोज के अखबारों में इस बाबत आ रहा है।

श्री जीवन राय: सर, आप कुछ डायरेक्शन दे दें।

श्री सभापति : अगर किसी के पास नकली पुस्तकें हों तो मुझे दे दें मैं उन्हें मंत्री जी को भेज दूंगा।

डा. वल्लभभाई रामजीभाई कथीरिया: महोदय, हम उस पर जरूर कार्यवाही करेंगे।

श्री सभापति : प्रश्न संख्या 591.

Impact of mid-day meal scheme on education

*591. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the system of mid-day meal in schools has been introduced (with the year of the commencement of the system);

(b) what about those States where the system is still due to be started;

(c) what share do the Central Government bear for running mid-day meal scheme in the States;

(d) whether Government have formulated or are going to formulate a nation-wide policy on the system; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the impact of mid-day meals on elementary education according to the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the available information under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (popularly known as the Mid-day Meal Scheme) which was launched in August 1995 a list of States/UTs that are providing mid-day meals in schools along with the year of commencement of a cooked meal system is given at Statement I (See below) All other States/UTs are distributing foodgrains under the Scheme. The Ministry has urged these States to serve cooked meals in the light of recent directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(c) and (d) Mid-day Meal Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which the Ministry provides foodgrains @ 100 gms. per child studying at primary level per day and admissible transportation charges. On the basis of this central support, the local bodies/the implementing agencies have the flexibility to decide the type of food to be provided subject to the same being wholesome and having a calorific value equivalent to 100 gms. of wheat/rice per student per day.

(e) The programme has been evaluated by Operations Research Group, New Delhi an independent agency; by NCERT and Planning Commission. A summary of these findings are given at Statement II.

Statement I*Impact of mid-day meal scheme on education*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT providing mid-day meals in schools	Year of commencement of cooked meals
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	January, 2002-03.
2.	Chhattisgarh	Formerly a part of combined M. P. which provided cooked meals in tribal blocks. Since 2002-2003 cooked meal being served across the State.
3.	Gujarat	Since inception of the scheme.

(1)	(2)	(3)
4.	Karnataka	2002-03 in 7 districts and through select NGOs 2001-02.
5.	Kerala	Since inception of the scheme.
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Since inception of the scheme in tribal blocks.
7.	Maharashtra	From 2002-03, in 17889 schools in 345 blocks in 35 districts.
8.	Orissa	<i>Since inception of the scheme, w.e.f. July 2001 the cooked meal programme was restricted to rural areas of 8 KBK districts, and 74 ITDA blocks of non KBK districts.</i>
9.	Punjab	In 17 blocks from 2002-03.
10.	Rajasthan	2002-03.
11.	Tamil Nadu	Since inception of the scheme.
12.	Tripura	2003-04.
13.	Uttaranchal	2002-03 in 26 blocks.
14.	West Bengal	2002-03 in 1100 selected schools.
15.	A & N Island	2002-03.
16.	D&N Haveli	2002-03.
17.	Daman & Diu	2002-03.
18.	Delhi	Since inception of the scheme with ready to eat food in MCD schools.
19.	Chandigarh	2002-03 in 76 schools with ready to eat food.
20.	Pondicherry	Since inception of the scheme.
21.	Lakshadweep	<i>UT of Lakshadweep is implementing its own cooked meal programme in schools.</i>

Statement II*Impact of mid-day meal scheme on education*

An evaluation has been undertaken in 10 States to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Scheme) by an independent agency, Operations Research Group, New Delhi. The study covers Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The report was submitted in September, 1999. The findings of the report state that while the programme has given a boost to enrolment in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; in 6 other States it has had a positive impact on attendance and retention.

A study conducted by NCERT on State policies on Incentive Schemes in Primary Schools and their Contribution to Girls' Participation, completed in April, 2000, also covers the Mid-day Meal Scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The report says that the Noon Meal Scheme of Tamil Nadu and supply of foodgrains under MDM in Uttar Pradesh have helped to improve the enrolment and retention of girls in schools.

Two studies were also commissioned by the Planning Commission—one, a comparative study of Orissa and Tamil Nadu and the other a comparative study on Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The first study found that while in Orissa there was positive impact on enrolment for SC/ST students, average attendance rate had increased in the post-MDM period in both Tamil Nadu and Orissa. The second study found that while it was difficult to evaluate the impact of the scheme on enrolment, there was a fluctuating trend in respect of attendance in UP and a marginal improvement in Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, it is seen that in case of Tripura, it is mentioned that the Mid-day Meal Scheme was introduced in the year 2003-04. Sir, I humbly request you to see that this is not correct. In Tripura, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been introduced since 1978. I think, it is the second State in the country to introduce this scheme. Now, my first supplementary is whether Central Government is providing establishment costs to the primary schools in regard to utensils, plates, etc., so that schools are not overburdened ?

श्री अशोक प्रधान: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगा कि सरकार खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध कराती है , ट्रांसपोर्टेशन कॉस्ट भी देती है, वहां तक पहुंचाती है और सरकार यह भी प्रयास कर रही है कि पका हुआ भोजन सभी स्टेट्स बच्चों को दें। प्राप्त सूचना के आधार से

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जहां तक त्रिपुरा का सवाल है, मध्याह्न भोजन पहले नहीं दिया जाता था। सिर्फ खाद्यान्न आवंटन होती थी।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Sir, it is seen that in all the States, this programme is yet to be introduced. May I know what steps is the Government going to take so that in all the States, that is, for all the children of the country at the primary level, these benefits are provided ?

श्री अशोक प्रधान: माननीय सभापति महोदय, जब 1995 में यह भोजन शुरू हुई थी, उस समय इस योजना के शुरू होने पर कहा गया था कि दो साल के अंदर सभी राज्यों को पका हुआ भोजन वितरण करना शुरू कर देना चाहिए, लेकिन किन्हीं कारणवश प्रदेशों ने यह नहीं किया। हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी इस बारे में लगातार लिखते रहे हैं। वर्ष 2000 में भी उन्होंने चीफ मिनिस्टर्स को कई पत्र लिखे और अब जब सुप्रीम कोर्ट का एक आदेश आया तो उस आदेश के बाद तकरीबन काफी ऐसे स्टेट्स हैं जिन में 12 स्टेट्स ऐसे हैं जो पूरी तरह से पका हुआ भोजन उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं, 9 स्टेट्स आंशिक रूप से भोजन उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं और 14 स्टेट्स ऐसे हैं जो अभी तक खाद्यान्न ही उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं। महोदय, इस संबंध में हमारे मंत्रालय का लगातार प्रयास है और हम उन से संपर्क बनाए हुआ हैं।

SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI : Sir, under-nutrition levels in India are the highest in the world. Half of the children are estimated to be under nourished and one-third of all children born are of low birth weight. Now, from the reply given, it is quite obvious that this is a very good scheme because it boosts attendance, it protects children from hunger, it breaks down caste barriers because all children sit together and eat. So, it has to be taken with total seriousness. In spite of the Supreme Court directives to all the States that cooked meals should be provided. States are doing different things like the Minister said that some of them are just giving grains, some of them are not doing this at all, and States are saying that they don't have the money to meet the costs which is about Rs. 400 crore per year. In spite of that, States—Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh—are yet to implement the Supreme Court orders. Now, what is the Government proposing to do about this and is it true that the Ministry owes money to the Food Corporation of India? How much money does it owe, I mean, is this one of the reasons that this Scheme is not being properly implemented?

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, आप इतना बता दीजिए कि जिन स्टेट्स में अभी तक सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के अनुसार लागू नहीं हुआ है, उनमें जल्दी से जल्दी लागू करने के लिए क्या प्रयास कर रहे हैं?

श्री अशोक प्रधान:जी, सभापति महोदय, उसमें हमारा मंत्रालय लगातार प्रयास कर रहा है।

श्रीमती शबाना आजमी: सर, सिर्फ खत लिखने से तो नहीं हो जाएगा। इसको बहुत सीरियसली लेना होगा।

श्री अशोक प्रधान : सर, हमारा मंत्रालय प्रयास कर रहा है। हमारे मंत्रालय ने बैठकें भी बुलाई हैं और उन बैठकें में प्रयास किया है प्रोत्साहन दिया और यह कहा कि आप समाजसेवी संस्थाओं को इसमें जोड़ो एनजीओज को इसके अंदर जोड़ो ताकि पका हुआ भोजन उपलब्ध करा सकें। हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने ऐसी बहुत सी एनजीओस को इसमें जोड़ा है, इसमें 9 डिस्त्री एनजीओज हैं जिन्होंने काम पहले से ही शुरू कर दिया है। जहां एनजीओज ने काम भी शुरू किया है। इसमें वे बहुत बड़ा काम कर रहे हैं, तकरीबन 35 हजार बच्चों को वे पका हुआ भोजन उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं। हम लोग इसमें प्रोत्साहन दे रहे हैं कि किसी ढंग से पका हुआ भोजन सब जगह मिले।

SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI : How much money do you owe to the FCI? That is very important because this is one of the reasons

श्री अशोक प्रधान: हमने देना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप छोड़िए इस क्वेश्चन को, माननीय मंत्री जी।

SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: I have not got my reply.

श्री अशोक प्रधान: हमने 800 करोड़ रुपए देना है एफसीआई को। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती शबाना आजमी: 800 करोड़ रुपए इनको एफसी आई को देना है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री अशोक प्रधान, सर, यह कारण नहीं है। इसके कारण से इस स्कीम में कोई फर्क नहीं आ रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए। 800 करोड़ दिए या नहीं दिए, गवर्नमेंट का काम है, लेकिन इसके कारण अनाज नहीं रोका गया।

DR. KARAN SINGH : Sir, this statement that the Minister has given seems to be inaccurate because in the 21 States and Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir has not been mentioned at all. I know from personal experience that the scheme is operative in parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Would the Minister kindly clarify as to why Jammu and Kashmir is not included here? I am asking this

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because if we look at his statement, he says that evaluation was undertaken that included Jammu and Kashmir. But, in these 21 States, there is no mention of that State. Would he clarify this?

श्री अशोक प्रधान: सभापति जी, जम्मू-कश्मीर खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध करा रहा है। हमारी सूची में जो 14 प्रदेश हैं, उसमें जम्मू-कश्मीर भी है, जो खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध करा रहा है। अभी तक वह पका हुआ फूड नहीं दे रहा है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

Environmental clearance to projects

*92. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

†SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to examine all new developmental projects along the coastal region to conserve and manage groundwater resources in the wake of recent reports of increased salinity due to over-extraction;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to include a member from the Central Ground Water Board in the Expert Committee for all developmental and tourism projects, urban townships and special tourism zones along the coast to ensure that necessary measures are taken while according environmental clearance to the projects; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government have cleared these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Government examines developmental projects along the coastal region under the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 (as amended subsequently) which *inter alia* prohibits harvesting or drawal of ground water and construction of mechanisms therefor within 200 meters of the High Tide Line (HTL). However, drawal of ground water through ordinary wells by manual methods for drinking, horticulture, agriculture and fisheries is permitted within 200-500 meters of the high tide line in CRZ area.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal.