

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2214
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

**Nutritional Value of
Mid-Day Meal**

2214. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of the current system of monitoring used by the Government to monitor the nutritional value of the Mid-Day Meal served to children in the schools across the country;
- (b) whether the Government has planned to develop a low cost and time efficient kit that gives nutritional value and status of the food being served to the children on the spot without sending it to the labs for testing; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

- (a): One of the objectives of the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme is to improve the nutritional status of children studying in elementary classes in schools covered under the Scheme, by providing hot cooked meal. The Government has adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children under the Scheme. At national level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of Human Resource Development and also a National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) as well as Programme Approval Board (PAB) monitor the scheme and suggest measures for its smooth and effective implementation. At the State level, a State level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary and, at the District Level, a District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of the senior-most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha of the district monitors the implementation of the scheme in the concerned District. At local level Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs)

and the School Management Committees (SMCs) monitor the regularity and wholesomeness of the mid-day meal served to children, cleanliness in cooking and serving of the meal, timeliness in procurement of good quality ingredients, fuel, etc., implementation of variety in menu so as to make it attractive to children and ensuring social and gender equity on daily basis. The Government of India has also issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene on school level kitchens to all the States and UTs. These guidelines inter-alia provide for instruction to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals, tasting of meals by 2-3 adult members 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. In addition, the Centre constitutes Joint Review Missions (JRMs) consisting of educational and nutritional experts, which review the scheme through field visits from time to time. The reports of JRMs are shared with concerned States and UTs for taking suitable action on the findings.

(b) & (c): No, Madam. MDM Guidelines on Food Safety and Hygiene for School Level Kitchens envisages that the States and UTs must consider engaging CSIR Institutes/NABL accredited laboratories and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) accredited laboratories for undertaking testing of samples of mid-day meal for food safety and contamination. Moreover, MDM Rules 2015, envisages that Hot cooked meal provided to children shall be evaluated and certified by the Government Food Research Laboratory or any laboratory accredited or recognized by law, so as to ensure that the meal meets with the nutritional standards and quality.
