

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 313
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.06.2019**

Quality of Mid Day Meal Scheme

†313. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) whether children in several parts of the country had fallen sick after eating food provided under Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) during the last few years;
- (b) the action taken against the school authorities for serving bad quality food to children;
- (c) whether any standards have been prescribed for the quality of food under MDMS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reasons for non-compliance of the prescribed criteria?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

- (a) & (b): A total number of 930 children were fallen sick after eating food provided under mid-day meal scheme in the country during the last three years and current year. The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious Mid Day Meal to the eligible children lies with State Governments and UTs Administrations. Respective State Governments and UT Administrations were requested to furnish Action Taken Report (ATR) in the matter. As per Action Taken Reports (ATRs) received from States and UTs, action such as issuing warning against the official responsible, terminating the contract of concerned NGOs / Organisations, initiating criminal proceedings and imposing penalties against the defaulting persons/organisations have been taken by the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations.

(c) to (e): The Mid-Day Meal Guidelines prescribe the following nutritional content 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 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. The Government has also adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to ensure quality food is served to children under the Scheme.
