

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3415
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.07.2019**

Akshaya Patra Foundation

3415. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the controversy concerning the vegetarian meals being served to school children in about 15,000 schools by the Akshaya Patra Foundation across the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has investigated the matter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the reports in media that the children in Karnataka State were not liking the food as it was served without onion and garlic;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government is constituting a committee to inquire the matter and examine whether the present mid-day meal scheme is aligning with the dietary requirements of the children?

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

- (a) to (c): The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is implemented in partnership with States and Union Territories Administrations (UTs). The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious mid-day meal to the eligible children lies with the States and UTs in accordance with the Guidelines laid down by the Central Government. The States and UTs fix their menu as per their local needs, in order to meet the prescribed nutritional content.

An incident has come to the notice of Government wherein Food Commission of Karnataka has made the objection on 04-08-2018, that vegetables like onion and garlic are not being used by Akshaya Patra Foundation while preparing and supplying meal under MDMS in Bellary district of Karnataka. Government of Karnataka has got the report and opinion from Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad in the matter.

The opinion reports from both the organizations have been reviewed and accepted by the Government of Karnataka and issued instruction that there is no need to make any changes in food preparing system being done by Akshaya Patra Foundation.

- (d) to (f): As per information received from State Government of Karnataka, a report was telecasted in media pertaining to Government Higher Primary School (GHPS), Yelahanka, Bengaluru north district that children not liking the food as it was served without onion and garlic. State Government has sent an officer to visit the school and verify the facts and it is found that no such complaints have been received from children, parents and schools and all the children are receiving mid-day meal regularly prepared and supplied by Akshaya Patra Foundation. Government is not constituting a Committee in the matter. However, the Mid-Day Meal Guidelines prescribe the following nutritional and food norms under the Scheme to meet nutritional standards specified in the National Food Security Act, 2013:

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) Quantum of 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
