

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-2046
ANSWERED ON- 19.12.2022

CASES OF FOOD POISONING IN MID-DAY-MEAL SCHEME

2046. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the cases of food poisoning due to consumption of Mid-Day-Meals have resurfaced as most of the students are back in school after pandemic restrictions and more than 1000 cases have been reported in the current year 2022;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has found the reasons for such increasing cases of food poisoning;
and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to stop the low standards of Mid-Day-Meal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

- (a) to (c): Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) is implemented in partnership with States and UTs. The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious mid-day meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Accordingly, complaints of different categories, whenever received are referred to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for taking necessary action. 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/officials/organisations have been taken by the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations. During the year 2022, 5 complaints regarding poor / substandard food quality have been reported from States/UTs. The State/UTs wise details of these complaints are given at Annexure.

(d): 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.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2046 FOR 19.12.2022 RAISED BY SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE, HON'BLE MP REGARDING CASES OF FOOD POISONING IN MID-DAY-MEAL SCHEME.

State-wise details of complaints regarding poor / substandard food quality during the year 2022 under PM POSHAN Scheme

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of complaints reported during 2022
1	Bihar	2
2	Chandigarh	1
3	Karnataka	1
4	Odisha	1
	Total	5