

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2019**

Irregularities in Mid Day Meal Scheme

1279. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI VASANTHAKUMAR H.:

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

- (a) the guidelines issued by the Government with regard to Mid Day Meal Scheme ;
- (b) the number of children died /fallen sick after eating the Mid Day Meal in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard and if so, the outcome of the enquiry;
- (d) the number of officials who were involved in such cases and the action taken against them;
- (e) whether the Government has announced any compensation to the parents of children who were hospitalised and died after eating the mid day meal during the said period and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

- (a): The Government of India has issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school level kitchens to all the States and UTs. 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.
- (b) to (e): A total number of 931 children were reported ill after eating the mid-day meal in the country during the last three years and current year. The State-wise and year-wise details are given at Annexure.

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/officials/organisations have been taken by the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations.

- (f): 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. 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 to directing States and UTs to carry out Social Audit, 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. The Government of India has also issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school level kitchens to all the States and UTs.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1279 for 25.11.2019 raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shrimati Annpurna Devi, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Shri Vasanthakumar H regarding Irregularities in Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Number of Children reported ill after consuming mid-day meal during the last three years and current year

S. No.	States and UTs	Children reported ill				
		2016	2017	2018	2019 (As on 19.11.2019)	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	-	-	-	44
2.	Bihar	54	-	-	-	54
3.	Chhattisgarh	60	-	-	-	60
4.	Delhi	-	9	29	-	38
5.	Gujarat	-	-	9	-	9
6.	J&K	25	-	-	-	25
7.	Jharkhand	259	-	-	-	259
8.	Maharashtra	201	-	-	-	201
9.	Odisha	8	-	-	-	8
10.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	1	1
11.	Tamil Nadu	-	35	-	43	78
12.	Uttar Pradesh	153	1	-	-	154
	Total	804	45	38	44	931