

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development**

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**Hiring of EDCIL for MDMS**

The Technical Support Group (TSG) of Ed.CIL for Mid Day Meal Scheme consists of Consultants (subject experts) and support staff and also provides support services to the Ministry towards implementation of the Scheme. For this purpose, Ed.CIL is reimbursed on cost plus basis salaries of the consultants & staff engaged for the TSG, administrative & procurement expenses, rent for space and maintenance charges. The activities were entrusted to Ed.CIL on nomination basis which is the only Government of India undertaking under MHRD.

The Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed.CIL) is a Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It has established credentials in Education Sector for providing quality services. It is categorised as a 'Mini Ratna Organisation' by the Government of India. EdCIL as Public Sector Enterprise of the Govt.of India is duty bound to follow the Government guidelines in respect of financial norms.

Elaborate monitoring mechanism exists at both State and the Central levels for smooth implementation of the scheme. At national level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of HRD, a National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) and Programme Approval Board (PAB) monitor the Scheme and suggest policy measures for effective implementation of the Scheme. At the State level, State level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary and at the District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of senior most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha monitor the scheme. Joint Review Mission (JRM) headed by experts also reviews the scheme. In addition, independents Monitoring Institutes (MIs) have been engaged for monitoring and evaluation of the scheme on half-yearly basis. The Guidelines also envisage monitoring of 25% of the schools on quarterly basis by the officials of the States / UTs. There is also a Management Information System (MIS) for monitoring of the Scheme.

The Government of India has issued updated guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene on school level kitchens to all the States / UTs on 13th February, 2015. The Central Government has also taken following steps to ensure quality food under Mid Day Meal Scheme:

- i) Training for cook-cum-helpers on safety, quality and hygiene aspects.
- ii) Instruction to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals.
- iii) Tasting of meals by 2-3 adults members including at least one teacher before serving to children.
- iv) System of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories.
- v) Construction of kitchen-cum-stores for safe storage and preparation of meals in a hygienic environment.
- vi) Engagement of cook-cum-helpers.
- vii) Periodic upward revision of cooking cost.

This information was given by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Smt. Smriti Irani in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha question.

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GG/DS/RK/MDMS