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Title: Need for proper implementation of Mid-day Meal Scheme.

SHRI P.C. MOHAN (BANGALORE CENTRAL): The agencies which are implementing the Centrally sponsored midday meals scheme have manipulated and pocketed a sum of Rs. 47 crores in excess of the actual cost incurred in transportation of food grains to various States. It was astonishing that Food Corporation of India has paid about Rs. 37 crores in UP alone as irregular expenditure for transportation of food grains to various schools. According to the survey the midday meals scheme had failed to benefit over 50% of the total 12 crores students enrolled in Government Schools in India. In Karnataka State, the scheme has failed to provide midday meals to children in schools.

The Central Government has increased the cooking cost from 5% to 7.5% with effect from 01.07.2015 to implement the scheme successfully. The cooking cost will be shared by the Central and State Government in the ratio of 60:40 for Non-NER States, 100% for UTs and 90:10 for North Eastern States. To implement the scheme in the right direction the Central Government has now decided that in addition to the mandatory testing by one teacher, at least one parent and preferably two who may or may not be SMC members should be present during serving of the meals to students so that they can taste the food as well as certify the number of children who take MDM.

While students are hungry, the State Governments parked the funds in FDR with Banks and earned interest of Rs. 103.95 crores and the unspent balance of Karnataka State is Rs. 2.54 crores. I request the Hon'ble HRD Minister to look into the matter and take appropriate action to implement the scheme successfully so that students of India do not starve.