

Paswan hints at fortification of midday meal

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PATNA: Union food, civil supplies and consumer affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Thursday said attempts were being made for fortification of midday meal (MDM) in order to address the issue of malnutrition in schoolchildren.

Talking to media persons on the sidelines of an event at Patna for rolling out 20 vehicles procured by an NGO, Ekta Shakti Foundation, for supplying MDM in different districts in state, Paswan invited the officials of the NGO in Delhi for having a detailed discussion on fortification of MDM.

“If fortification is introduced in MDM, the problems of malnutrition and hidden hunger can be tackled to a large extent. A blueprint on fortification of MDM will be developed after deliberations on it with the Union minister in Delhi,” said Anil Agarwal, founder chairman of Ekta Shakti Foundation.

“We are trying our best to provide nutritious meals to each and every child, who attend the schools regularly, so that they don’t suffer from malnutrition and hunger. With our efforts of hot-cooked meals prepared in centralised kitchens, we are reaching out to around five lakh children in Bihar,” Agarwal told reporters.

In order to combat hunger and malnutrition among children, Ekta Shakti Foundation is providing midday meals to around 10 lakh children daily in Delhi, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with the governments of the respective states.